

Jordan Times

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Egypt celebrates air links

CAIRO (R) — A Syrian airliner landed in Egypt Wednesday to a warm welcome for the war-torn ties signified by the resumption of regular flights after 12 years. Dozens of Egyptians and Syrians at Cairo airport shouted "Long live the Arab Nation" and "Long live Egypt and Syria" after the white and green Syrian Arab Airlines Boeing 727 touched down. Egyptian hostesses handed a flower to each of the 76 people on board, including officials, reporters and 12 passengers. Egyptian reporters and officials cheered and applauded as Egypt's national airline chief, Fakhri Rayan, embraced Syrian Transport Ministry official Moustafaa Jarawli. "Give me a glass full of the Nile water. I have come back for it," a Syrian said to a waiter after the visitors were ushered into a VIP lounge. "We hope to have daily flights between Cairo and Damascus. But as a first step we'll start with three flights a week," Rayan told reporters. Rayan said the restoration of flights would help both national carriers who had lost to foreign airlines after air links were suspended 12 years ago. A Syrian airliner landed in Cairo in June for the first time since the boycott, but regular flights were only resumed Tuesday after agreement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad. Egypt made its first flight to Damascus Tuesday.

Vance emphasises PLO role

TEL AVIV (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said Wednesday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must eventually be represented in peace talks with Israel. Speaking during a Middle East tour that has included talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Vance also told reporters Damascus no longer wanted to play the "spoiler" in peace efforts. "My own view is that the PLO will have to be represented in the discussions at some point," said Vance, secretary of state in 1979 when U.S. President Jimmy Carter mediated the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. "I think the task now is to see whether you can find representatives who would represent the PLO and other Palestinians who would be acceptable to the parties so that you can get on with the talks," Vance said. Vance said Americans were increasingly frustrated by Israeli stalling over which Palestinians were acceptable for talks. Now a practicing New York lawyer, the 72-year-old Vance spoke at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot where he chaired a four-day forum on science and government that ended Wednesday. Having spent three days in Damascus recently for the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, Vance said Assad no longer opposed Israeli-Palestinian talks. "I think it's a modification," Vance said.

King voices high optimism over parliamentary life

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that he did not see any "rejectionist" or "antagonistic" elements in the newly elected Lower House of Parliament. "I don't think there is any rejection for the Jordanian family in shaping the country's future," he was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying in Azraq where he accompanied North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on a visit to a military base. The King said that the "people's representatives or a group of them will cooperate in the formation and formulation of the national charter."

The King said it will be presented to the people for a referendum. The next stage, he said, would be the stage of freedom based on respect of the constitution. Commenting on the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections and the formation of a new government, King Hussein said: "We have come a long way on the path which we wished to follow. We are optimistic."

"We know the plans of our enemies, and we hope for a solution that will ensure the full rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people — the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."



His Majesty King Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Wednesday visit a military base in Azraq (Petra photo)

Saleh ends visit paying tribute to Jordan's moves

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — President Ali Abdullah Saleh of North Yemen ended a two-day visit to Jordan Wednesday describing his talks with His Majesty King Hussein as a great success.

In statements made at during a visit to a military base in Azraq and in an interview with Jordan Television, Saleh said the visit had given him the opportunity to discuss with the King a number of important issues.

Saleh congratulated King Hussein on the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections at a banquet Tuesday night.

The Yemeni president welcomed the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan and the formation of the new Jordanian government. "I am extremely happy with the excellent democratic step, which is an asset not only to Jordan but to the whole Arab Nation," he said.

He said that active parliamentary life enabled the people to share the burdens of responsibility and the glories of successes with their leadership. He said his discussions with King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials included recent developments in the Arab World and concentrated in particular on the Palestine question and the intifada. He called on all Arab countries to support the just cause of the Palestinian people and the intifada.

President Saleh briefed King Hussein on the steps North and South Yemen have taken towards unification. He said that during a visit to Aden Nov. 30 he had met with the South Yemeni leadership and discussed steps to be taken to achieve unity of the Yemeni people. "I felt I understood our brothers very well and it urged me to pursue the unification of one people that had been divided into two countries," he told Petra.

A joint statement announcing that the leadership of North and South Yemen had approved a draft constitution for a unified Yemen was made at the conclusion of the visit by Saleh. An agreement was made referring to the constitution of the "united Yemen" to the legislative powers of the two existing Yemenis to be worked out in its final form within a period of six months after which a two-member ministerial committee comprising the interior ministers of both Yemenis will be formed to present the new constitution to the Yemeni people in a general plebiscite, subsequently all government departments in both Yemenis will be merged.

President Saleh, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation, was seen off by the King, Prime Minister Mndar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other high-ranking officials. Upoo his departure from Jordanian airspace, Saleh sent a cable to King Hussein expressing appreciation and gratitude for the hospitality accorded to him during the visit. "The great achievements of Jordan reflect the determination and resolve of the Jordanian people," he said.

One of the main topics discussed between the King and Saleh was the Yemeni unification plan and the implications of a united Yemen in the context of the Arab Cooperation Council which groups North Yemen with Egypt, Iraq and Jordan.

Hrawi gets a diplomatic boost

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The ambassadors of France, Egypt and Algeria presented their credentials to President Elias Hrawi Wednesday in a move that reflects foreign recognition of his government against rebellious army chief Michel Aoun. Rene Ala of France, Hassan Shash of Egypt and Mohammad Lakhdar Blacid of Algeria presented their credentials in separate ceremonies at Hrawi's temporary headquarters at a Lebanese army barracks in east Lebanon.

The three, along with U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy, had started their assignments in Lebanon before the election by parliament of the late President Rene Muawad Nov. 5. On Nov. 19, McCarthy presented his credentials to Muawad at his hometown of Ehden in north Lebanon. Three days later, Muawad and 23 other people were killed in a roadside bomb explosion in west Beirut. Parliament met again at a hotel in the Bekaa Valley town of Chitourah Nov. 24 and elected Hrawi as Lebanon's 10th president, succeeding Muawad. Ala and Blacid refused to talk to reporters after presenting their credentials to Hrawi in the presence of Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, a Sunni Muslim who also doubles as foreign minister. Shash, talking to reporters at



the entrance to Ablah barracks, said he hoped Hrawi and Hoss would "succeed in spreading state authority over all the Lebanese territory. Aoun claims his interim cabinet is Lebanon's only lawful one and terms Hrawi a Syrian puppet. The general rejected an Arab-sponsored peace accord to end 14 years of civil war because it did not ensure the swift withdrawal of Syria's troops, now estimated at 45,000.

The accord was drawn up by an Arab League committee comprising Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Algeria, Prince Saud Al Faisal and Ahmad Al Ghazali, were due to meet Pope John Paul at the Vatican later Wednesday in the final leg of a tour of capitals with influence on the Lebanese crisis. The ministers have been trying to find a way to resolve the crisis between Aoun and Hrawi.

The two ministers visited Syria, Iraq and France before heading to Rome. Beirut's independent Al Nahar newspaper said Wednesday Syria rejected a proposal by the ministers for a partial withdrawal of its troops from areas with no strategic value. Damascus said such a move, designed to provide a face saving solution to enable Aoun to step down, would be interpreted as a

youngest daughter was safe. "Our ordeal of anxiety and agony has ended. Their prayers and good wishes have restored our child to us."

Details of the exchange remained unclear, although Sayeed was not only happy but sure there had been no government cave-in. "Because it's a political problem, we have to deal with it politically. By releasing a few people, we have not strengthened the terrorists," he told reporters at his Delhi home. The KLF and its many supporters in Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu Kashmir, were also happy. Thousands took to the streets of the old city, singing welcome songs and some fired shots in the air.

KLF chief Amanullah Khan told Reuters in Pakistan the release of his men was "a pleasant surprise" but he feared the Indian government would take its revenge. "I do fear a crackdown because they have deployed a lot of paramilitary and army there. But, naturally, if they do that they can expect retaliation," he said. Sayeed, a Kashmiri and the first Muslim to hold the powerful Home (interior) Ministry portfolio, said he had warned his family in Srinagar to look after his son but never imagined the

secessionist guerrillas would kidnap a woman. "We don't think it their moral victory. By capturing a girl, they have lost the sympathy of the people," he said. Only hours before his daughter was grabbed, Sayeed was named head of the cabinet committee set up to settle secessionist movements in Kashmir and in the northern state of Punjab, where more than 1,900 people have been killed this year in a Sikh separatist campaign. Although the death toll was only about 80 in Kashmir from daily bombings, assassinations and clashes with police during well-observed general strikes, Sayeed said it was a much worse problem than Punjab. "Kashmir is priority number one," he said. "We are planning an action programme, a package to restore the confidence of the people of Kashmir," he said without giving details. Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been the cause of two of India's three wars with Pakistan, which controls one-third of the region. The KLF wants a reunited and independent Kashmir. Some other militant groups want to join Pakistan.

King's message given to Bush Crown Prince: Mideast should not slip on international agenda

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday he hopes the Middle East does not "slip on the international agenda" as the world focuses on dramatic developments in Eastern Europe. Prince Hassan spoke after meeting at the White House with President George Bush and his advisers, including Chief of Staff John Sununu and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft. He told reporters Jordan supports the "European agenda" with the rapid East bloc moves towards political freedom and economic reform.

"As we look at peacemaking in the Middle East region, we hope that the Middle East does not slip on the international agenda. And that certainly is a concern of many people in our part of the world," Prince Hassan said. "It's been valuable to speak to the president during this period of world transition and to state our concern and our commitment for lasting peace in our region."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince delivered to Bush a message from His Majesty King Hussein on the "latest developments and current efforts for peace in (the Middle East) in light of the changes taking place in the world."

Petra said the Crown Prince briefed Bush on Jordan's assessment of peace efforts. Also discussed were bilateral relations and issues of common interest, Petra said. Bush asked to Crown Prince to convey his greetings to the King, the agency said. In his remarks to reporters afterwards, the Crown Prince emphasised the need to "mobilise international efforts to end the daily bloodshed caused by Israeli practices" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Petra reported.

E. Germany accepts Bonn's offer of aid

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany expanded cooperation with West Germany Wednesday by accepting Bonn's offer of a billion-mark (\$540-million) environmental improvement project. The agreement, which involves 17 East German sites, was announced in Bonn by West German Environmental Minister Klaus Toepper. The agreement came one day after East German Premier Hans Modrow welcomed U.S. support for East Germany's reform process and called for closer ties with the United States. East German cities also appealed for help in preparing for free elections, food aid and advice on a range of reforms that have markedly changed their municipal operations, according to West German officials. At a conference in Cologne, West Germany, municipal authorities reported that they had been overwhelmed with calls for assistance from their East German sister cities. While signs of increasing cooperation between the two Germanys have mounted, the state-run press and East Germany's Communist-led government have made clear that they reject reunification and will seek to retain a traditional socialist course. In a detailed proposal for restructuring the Communist Party, published Wednesday by the newspaper Neues Deutschland, the Communists called for a course that adheres to "socialist, anti-fascist, pacifist and all international leftist traditions, especially those of Lenin."

The proposal is to be considered when the party's emergency congress resumes deliberations this weekend. The session began last Friday, but suspended its work after naming a new party leader, Gregor Gysi. West German officials have offered large amounts of aid to East Germany on condition that it begins some capitalist reforms. But the Communist-led East Berlin government has agreed to discuss only those cooperative ventures that fit into the socialist structure of East Germany's economy. Modrow and other top officials also have repeatedly rejected West German ideas for merging the two German states, though they have expressed interest in closer ties that benefit both sides. Meanwhile, the opposition group Neues Forum has filed a legal complaint against former Communist leader Egon Krenz and the head of the secret police force for allegedly destroying evidence needed in probes of corruption among high party officials.

Israeli MK confirms behind-the-scenes moves

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are pursuing "very, very intensive efforts" in Cairo to compile a list of Palestinian negotiators for preliminary peace talks with Israel, an Israeli legislator said Wednesday. Aryeh Eliav, a member of parliament from the Labour Party, made the comment after returning from a meeting in Cairo with PLO officials including Nabil Shaat, a top political aide to Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Eliav said the contacts in Cairo were aimed at submitting Palestinian names for Israeli approval in Washington next month as a step toward the first direct formal negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. Eliav is the first Israeli official to confirm a report by the daily Yediot Achronot Sunday saying behind-the-scenes Middle East peace contacts are underway despite Israel's insistence that the PLO be excluded from peace efforts.

Bulgarian party axes own power

SOFIA (AP) — The Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party said Wednesday it would ask parliament to repeal constitutional provisions guaranteeing the party's leading role in society. The committee, the chief decision-making body of the party, also stripped fallen leader Todor Zhivkov of party membership, along with his son and a close associate said the state news agency BTA.

TOMORROW
FRIDAY

The Management of the
JORDAN SUPERMARKET
ANNOUNCES
The opening of its new restaurant
Omani Fish Restaurant
in Abdoun - Jordan Supermarket Building
near Abdoun Circle - Amman.
Friday: Dec. 15, 1989,
where you find the best selection of
Omani fish dishes.
For reservations call: 819666, 819677,
Amman.
N.B. please call us for special orders and
take-away service.

He said the PLO was ready to devote the first Israeli-Palestinian session to discussing technicalities of the Israeli elections plan, although the organisation never officially approved of the polling scheme. "They understand the great importance of the fact of a meeting in Cairo, even at a low level and even if its just about technical procedures. They understand that even this would be a big step forward," Eliav said. A senior Egyptian official said in an interview published Wednesday that the PLO would be the main beneficiary of proposed elections in occupied lands. "If elections are held, they will boost the PLO's image... it will give the PLO greater legitimacy," Osama Baz, top political advisor of President Hosni Mubarak, told a magazine. He said PLO supporters were the likely winners of the proposed elections. Poland said Wednesday that Arafat had proposed holding peace talks with Israel in Warsaw. Foreign Ministry spokesman Stefan Staniszewski said Poland, which plans to restore full diplomatic ties with Israel early in 1990, had agreed to pass on the suggestion to the Israelis.

Libya drops hostility to EC-Arab dialogue — Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya has been persuaded to attend a meeting of Arab and EC foreign ministers in Paris next week and has dropped a threat of sanctions against the participants, Egyptian officials said Wednesday.

The officials, who asked not be named, said that during Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's latest diplomatic foray Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had been persuaded to ease his hostility towards dialogue with EC states.

Mubarak paid a surprise one-day visit to the neighbouring North African state Tuesday to smooth ties troubled by 12 years of territorial and political disputes.

The breakthrough came in four hours of discussion led by Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and Omar Al Moutasser, secretary-general of the People's Committee — Libya's equivalent of prime minister.

Libya has yet to confirm it will attend the Paris meeting set for Dec. 21 and 22, and a European diplomat based in Cairo said he remained sceptical of Qadhafi's intentions.

"We'll have to see positive evidence that the Libyans have made real progress on controlling terrorism before there can be real change in our relations," he said.

"Libya and Syria had imposed conditions (on talking to the EC), such as erasing them from an EC 'black list'," said one Egyptian Foreign Ministry source.

The official Libyan News Agency (JANA) had also warned last month it would expel Arab workers from countries taking part in talks with the EC and would stop aid to Arab participants.

The United States and several EC states have accused Libya and Syria of sponsoring "international terrorism," but Qadhafi was reported as saying last month that he had been mistaken in supporting groups involved in terrorist attacks.

Diplomats said the renewed Egyptian-Libyan contacts have already led to Tripoli putting pressure on radical Palestinian leader Abu Nidal to halt his guerrilla activities.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, has been based in Libya for several years.

In recent weeks there have been contradictory reports that he was ill, under house arrest in Tripoli or suffering from an upheaval in his clandestine Fatah Revolutionary Council.

Most Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), one of the Arab League's 22 members, have already accepted French President Francois Mitterrand's invitation and diplomats said Morocco's King Hassan was expected to chair the Arab group.

The aim was to improve ties between Europe and the Arab World, the diplomats said.

Egyptian-Libyan relations improved in October, when Qadhafi travelled across the once-disputed border to the Egyptian Mediterranean resort of Mersa Matruh and Mubarak responded by visiting the Libyan garrison town of Tobruk.

Libya and Syria are the only two Arab states to have held out against renewing ties with Cairo, broken by a general Arab boycott following Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Egypt and Libya have agreed to build roads connecting oases, share television programmes and cooperate in agricultural and industrial projects.

Broad agreement was reached on most of the projects in October at summit meetings between Mubarak and Qadhafi. Egypt's government-owned news media reported Wednesday that the two leaders reaffirmed the decisions Tuesday during Mubarak's one-day visit to Sirte on Libya's north coast.

As reported by the government-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA), other cooperative projects include Egyptian help for desert reclamation projects in south eastern Libya and construction of a 125-kilometre-long road connecting Siwa Oasis in Egypt's western desert with the Jaghbug Oasis in eastern Libya.

They also agreed on cooperation in electricity distribution and television programming.

Asked whether he was satisfied with steps to normalise ties with Egypt, Qadhafi said he had greater aspirations, but added: "The one-thousand-mile trip starts with a step... we hope to achieve Arab unity."

MENA said the two leaders held two rounds of talks. It also reported that Qadhafi and Mubarak made a two-hour tour of the mountainous area near Sirte.

Sabbah warns against Israel's measures to quell uprising

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem has warned that tough Israeli tactics against the Palestinian uprising could boomerang and create increasing insecurity for the Zionist state.

Monsignor Michel Sabbah, the first Arab to head the Catholic church here, said in a pre-Christmas interview that he has expressed this view in meetings with the ministry of religious affairs, his channel to the Israeli government.

"We tell them they are doing wrong," he said. "Through all this violence... they are not achieving any gain for the Israelis themselves. Instead they are doing the opposite, making martyrs among the Palestinians. That just helps build strength among the Palestinian people."

Sabbah said that the "secure" borders desired by Israel cannot be achieved by continued occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Secure borders cannot be realised by any occupation of land," Sabbah said. "Secure borders for the Israelis are injustice for the Palestinians."

He said that until Israel talks peace with Palestinians, "it will be surrounded by enemies, and as long as it is surrounded by enemies, it will live in fear."

Asked if he favours an independent Palestinian state, he said that "this is a political, a technical issue" to be left for negotiations.

"The problem is to live free, without being under submission to anyone else," he said. "Leaders can decide if this requires a state, a confederation, a federation."

Sabbah, 56, was born in Nazareth, and educated at a seminary in the West Bank village of Beit Jala and St. Joseph's University in Lebanon. He earned a doctorate in Arabic linguistics at the Sorbonne in Paris.

He worked for 17 years as a parish priest in Amman and was president of Bethlehem University in the West Bank.

As patriarch, or bishop, of Jerusalem, Sabbah is responsible for the 65,000 Roman Catholics who live in Jordan, Cyprus, Israel and the West Bank.

Sabbah was appointed patriarch by the Vatican less than a month after the Palestinian uprising began in December 1987. Dealing with the revolt's effects on his parishioners has taken an increasing amount of his time, he said.

He said the Palestinians were enduring hardships that included coping with death, gunshot wounds, and sometimes hunger.

"Morally, I think it has more positive effects," he said. "People have become more conscious of their own identities as Palestinians and Christians. In that sense, the uprising was formative. The more martyrs, the more you build the people."

The uprising also has created more unity among the bishops of the various Christian denominations in Jerusalem, he noted.

The traditional rivalry among the Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs has given way to periodic meetings and joint calls for easing the plight of the Palestinians, who include more than 35,000 Christians.

Sabbah believes the church cannot play a direct political role

Kuwaiti crowds petition for revival of assembly

NICOSIA (AP) — Anti-riot squads surrounded an estimated 2,000 citizens who gathered in Kuwait City to listen to speakers demanding that the dissolved parliament be revived, travellers returning from Kuwait reported Wednesday.

They said the gathering in a main square Monday was prompted by a government decision to ban meetings of hardline members of the dormant constituent body, in which they held political discussions at the salon-like diwaniyah of a prominent citizen.

A diwaniyah is a traditional Arab late-night gathering in large halls to which a man invites his friends and views are exchanged

on topics of the hour. Addressing the crowds, the speaker of the dissolved parliament, Ahmad Al Saadoun, criticised the government for the ban on diwaniyah meetings at the home of former parliament deputy Mishari Al Angari.

The crowds dispersed peacefully, the same travellers said, after Saadoun promised to assemble a similar congregation at the Fatima Mosque in the Abdullah Al Salem suburb next Monday.

An unspecified number of former parliamentarians were meanwhile reported to have sent a message to Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah protesting the

diwaniyah ban. Kuwaiti politicians have been demanding a revival of parliamentary activities within the frameworks of the constitution, which was partly suspended in July 1986.

A similar demand was made in a petition bearing signatures of some 25,000 citizens, but government authorities have so far stopped the petitioners from reaching the head of state, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, according to travellers' reports.

The 50-member parliament was dissolved in September 1986 following heightened criticism of the government at a time when the Kuwaiti coastal regions and

offshore oil installations were the target of Iranian rocket attacks. The attacks were offshoots of the Iran-Iraq war, a period that also witnessed a series of destructive attacks by Iran-instigated saboteurs who resented Kuwait's alleged siding with Iraq against Iran.

In dissolving the parliament, Sheikh Jaber complained that deputies were turning the assembly into "an arena for settling old scores."

Left-wing deputies were critical of the government's handling of the disastrous collapse of the Manakha Stock Market under the impact of \$94 billion in bad checks.

Bashir: Israel wants base on Ethiopian islands

MANAMA (AP) — Sudanese leader Lt.-Gen. Omar Al Bashir backed down Tuesday from earlier statements saying that Israel had established a military base on Ethiopian islands in the strategic Bab Al Mandab Straits, 2,050 kilometres south of the Jewish state.

Bashir also said a doctor condemned to death in Sudan for leading a strike had no hope for clemency.

Addressing a press conference

in Bahrain, the Sudanese leader said Israel was asking Ethiopia for a base on one of the Red Sea islands.

Israel "is seeking a base on one of the several Ethiopian islands in the area, but this hasn't yet been defined," he said.

Bashir, who arrived in Bahrain Tuesday to a red-carpet treatment, said that the base was established during a news conference in Abu Dhabi Monday.

He reiterated charges that the

Israeli aim was to "lay siege to the Arab World from the south."

Israel was becoming a direct threat to all the Arab states around the Red Sea, as well as the Gulf states whose shipping trade relies heavily on the waterway, said Bashir.

He claimed Israel was helping consolidate the six-year rebellion in the south of his country.

On Nov. 17, the Khartoum newspaper Al Engaz Al watani

reported that as part of a deal in which Ethiopia restored relations with Israel, Ethiopia would provide military and maritime facilities on the islands of Sali and Khaja in the straits.

Under the deal, Addis Ababa would allow 22,000 Ethiopian Jews to leave for Israel, the newspaper reported. In exchange, Israel would provide military experts to help Ethiopia end a rebellion in the northern province of Eritrea.

Officials said the meetings were the first of a series due to take place this week, with Italy acting as observer.

"We talked about the chairman and also about what the agenda should be," said an official liaison between the Ethiopian government delegation and the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The official, who refused to be named, said the four-hour talks were going well and could continue over five days. Last month, the two sides met for the first time, but without any conclusive results.

Members of both delegations refused to say whether they also discussed a request by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi for rebels to open corridors through Tigray and neighbouring Eritrea provinces to allow food aid to reach four million people threatened with starvation.

On Tuesday, Moi said Ethiopia had accepted his request. He said he had also asked rebel leaders to stop fighting to allow food to get through.

The civil wars in Tigray and Eritrea, both devastated by drought, have hampered movement of food supplies to the region.

U.S. promises more aid for Ethiopia famine relief

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is promising more than 100,000 metric tonnes of new food aid to Ethiopia to help soften the blow of a drought that threatens to be as bad as the 1984 disaster that starved an estimated 1 million people.

And Mark L. Edelman, acting director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Tuesday welcomed reports that Ethiopia's government will allow a corridor for food aid to flow to people in the embattled northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray.

"If it is (true), I am absolutely delighted," said Edelman. "I congratulate President Mengistu for doing it."

A severe drought in the two provinces and the civil war, coupled with what Edelman called the government's discredited agricultural policies, have placed 5 million people at risk of starvation.

Edelman said the aid is to help meet a total need of up to 750,000 metric tonnes of food to offset the drought's effects. The Ethiopian government and the United Nations have put out a worldwide appeal for help.

Any relief effort is complicated by the war raging across northern Ethiopia, where two rebel groups control much of the territory and where a large expanse extending into Gonder and Wello provinces also is contested. Relief officials are seeking to get all parties in

the conflict to establish corridors where relief vehicles can safely pass battle lines so that food shipments can be reached the drought-stricken area.

The primary corridor sought is a road extending south from the Red Sea port of Massawa, which is controlled by the Mengistu government, into Tigray. A secondary corridor would be established from the Red Sea port of Asseb, south westward through Wello.

Edelman said the announcement was being made because it has recently become apparent "the need is going to be much greater than we thought."

"We do not believe it will be possible to avert starvation in northern Ethiopia, or to prevent large movements of people out of drought-stricken areas, unless such a plan can be implemented," he said.

Such migrations in the 1984-85 famine led to vast, over-crowded and unsanitary camps where as many people died from disease as from hunger.

Meanwhile the Ethiopian government met rebels from the northern province of Tigray Tuesday to try to work out a framework for full-scale peace talks to end the civil war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

'Saudis paying financial commitments'

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia is paying on time all its financial commitments in a multi-billion sterling military contract with British Aerospace, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) has said. "Contacts between the governments of Saudi Arabia and Britain ended with Saudi Arabia paying its full commitment to these projects without the need for borrowing," SPA quoted a responsible source in the government as saying. Press reports have said Riyadh is having difficulties in meeting payments on the deal, which defence industry analysts say could be worth up to \$20 billion. The contract includes Tornado jet fighters, jet trainers, helicopters, minehunters, and base construction plus support services. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia... wants to reiterate its capability to cover on time all payments of all projects it signed with the British and other governments," SPA quoted the source as saying.

Sudan reports recapturing town

KHARTOUM (AP) — The army claimed Wednesday that it has recaptured a town and two garrison posts in southeastern Sudan which rebels had won in November. The daily Al Guwat Al Musallah armed forces newspaper said that government troops "liberated" the town of Chail Al Fil and the garrison posts of Dora and Dera Mansur, all in the Blue Nile region near the border with Ethiopia. The newspaper said the rebels were driven out after "successful" military operations in which heavy casualties were inflicted on the outlaws. It gave no further details.

Iran fires Silkworm missiles

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards have fired silkworm missiles at mock enemy targets during exercises in the Gulf. The Iranian news agency (IRNA) said on Wednesday five Guards units fired the missiles Tuesday night. Iran describes the week-long naval exercise which began Saturday as its biggest since the 1979 revolution. Iran deployed the Chinese-built Silkworms on its southern shores at the height of the war against Iraq and fired them at an oil export platform and two ships in Kuwaiti waters in October 1987. The crew of the U.S. frigate Jack Williams said Iran fired a Silkworm at the ship during a clash in the Gulf in April 1988. The frigate used electronic measures to divert it.

Afghan refugees' misery worsens as aid shrinks

QUETTA, Pakistan (R) — Abdul Razaq shivered and clutched a piece of paper as he waited outside the United Nations office in western Pakistan.

The 74-year-old Afghan refugee leaned on a wooden stick to keep his balance against icy winds sweeping the town of Quetta, close to the Afghan border. He murmured "salam" (peace) and touched his forehead in greeting at each passerby.

Razaq, his head covered with a worn turban and old blanket, had made one of his regular trips from a camp nearby to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to wave his job application at anyone who would listen.

"I need a job," he said. "My family of six is on the verge of starvation. They can't survive with the aid cut down so drastically. It is my responsibility to feed them."

He said his two adult sons had crossed the border to fight with the Mujahideen, Afghan guerrillas trying to overthrow the Kabul government.

Afghanistan has slipped from the headlines but the fighting has gone on since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from the mountainous, landlocked country last February.

There have been political disputes over which side of the battlelines aid should be distributed. Pakistani officials say Western donations for the

Afghans have shrunk and life has become increasingly grim for the more than three million refugees living in camps along the border.

"Foreign donors have cut down the aid," said Major Niaz Ali, a Pakistani official responsible for security and ration distribution among the one million refugees around Quetta.

"The refugees' misery has worsened," he said. "Exact figures on humanitarian aid are hard to come by, but Pakistan says it spends the equivalent of more than \$1 million a day on the refugees, with U.N. bodies and other countries adding about half a million dollars a day more."

Pakistani officials at the United Nations said on Nov. 24 the UNHCR was planning to cut its programmes because of cash shortages and demanded that foreign aid be maintained until conditions in Afghanistan allowed refugees to return.

A decade of war has left more than five million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

"We now don't get sugar, tea or dried milk in aid. These items are donated by Pakistan," Ali said. "We cut the kerosene supply to nine litres per family per month down from 20 a few months ago."

Kerosene is essential to Afghan refugees for cooking and for heating their tents in the sub-zero winter temperatures.

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PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Anjouan 'Tsi on France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Guinness Record
21:10 Feature film
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film "May Be Baby"

PRAYER TIMES
05:00 Fajr
06:23 (Sunrise) Duha
11:30 Dhuhur
14:15 'Asr
16:38 Maghrib
18:00 'Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swarthel
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541.
Assieline Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assieline International Church Tel. 627981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 649432.

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and another rise in temperature will occur. Winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 7/14
Aqaba 13/23
Deraa 4/16
Jordan Valley 11/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 71 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMBULANCE: Dr. Amjad Nawras 781806
Dr. Hanna Mousour 740733
Dr. Mohammad Al Akhras 778939
Dr. Saad Abu Hatab 648246
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 670053
Nairowah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID: Dr. Dr. Ali Al Omani (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (965238)

ZARQA: Dr. Yusef Abu Sa'ad (—)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771231
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 658000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Assieline Municipality (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS
AMBULANCE: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 661101
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/87
Al-Jal, Abdali 664164/6
Rafaa, Al-Mulajjaza 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511/26

Army, Madra 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)747100
AQABA: Prince Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. 0653200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:55 Dammam (RJ)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
07:20 New Delhi (RJ)
07:30 Cairo (RJ)
07:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
07:40 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
14:15 London (RJ)

16:30 Laraca (RJ)
17:00 Baghdad (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:10 Samaa (LJ)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)
12:35 Riyadh (RJ)
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
14:05 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:30 Dhahran (TK)
15:20 Dubai (EK)
15:40 Amsterdam (KL)
19:25 Frankfurt (LJ)
20:10 Zurich, Laraca (SR)
21:05 Cairo (MS)
06:35 London (BA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:45 Rome (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Laraca (RJ)
13:00 Baghdad (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:20 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:15 Bangkok (RJ)

FOR FRIDAY
JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
10:00 Koran
10:15 Children programme
11:20 Religious programme
11:30 Friday's prayer
11:40 Local programme
12:45 Sports programme
14:15 Religious seminar
16:00 Feature film
16:00 Message from Queen
18:10 Local programme
19:25 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local programme
21:30 Arabic series
22:00 News summary in Arabic
22:00 News summary in English
22:10 Programme repeat

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 La Grande Cabriole
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 News in Arabic
20:00 Mr. Robinson
21:10 Drama
22:00 News in English
22:20 Comedy
23:10 Three's Company

PRAYER TIMES
05:00 Fajr
06:23 (Sunrise) Duha
11:30 Dhuhur
14:15 'Asr
16:38 Maghrib
18:00 'Isha

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI RECEIVES LEBANESE CABLE: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday received a reply message from Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein thanking him for his congratulatory cable on his re-election speaker. (Petra)

LOWER HOUSE TO MEET SATURDAY: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sulaiman Arar has called on parliament members to a meeting Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (Petra)

GAMMO RECEIVES QATARI ENVOY: The Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Wednesday visited Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Abdul Baqi Gammo congratulating him on his appointment to his post. (Petra)

ACC MINISTERS TO MEET: The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministers of trade, economy, and supply will hold a meeting in Baghdad on Dec. 23. During the meeting, the ministers will prepare a mechanism for the execution of the economic agreements signed during the Sanaa Summit. These agreements set the cornerstone and framework for trade exchange as well as cooperation in the fields of agriculture and education. An ACC economic experts committee will hold a meeting on Dec. 18 to review achievements made in previous sessions and to prepare proposed agendas and recommendations for the ministerial meetings. (Petra)

ARAB YOUTH MINISTERS MEET: Representatives from 12 member states to the Council of Arab Youth Ministers Wednesday met in Tunis to discuss means of bolstering inter-Arab cooperation in the fields of sports and youth, including the Arab Youth Ministers Award and the second Palestine Soccer Championship. The representatives, meeting within the framework of the council's technical committee, will also discuss reports of the various Arab youth federations and the sports championships to be held in the Arab World. The Jordanian delegation is headed by the Youth Ministry's Secretary General Assem Ghoshel. (Petra)

TUNISIAN MINISTER MEETS JORDANIAN TEAM: Tunisian Minister of Housing and Supplies Ahmad Freihat Wednesday discussed with a visiting Jordanian delegation headed by Uklah Duheimat, the director of the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre, means of developing existing cooperation between the centre and the Tunisian Land Survey Department, in the areas of producing and exchanging maps, training of technical cadres and the exchange of expertise. (Petra)

COMPETITION: The Ministry of Culture has received an invitation to take part in a \$12,000 competition on the state of the Muslim women, organised by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IESCO). According to the conditions of the contest three awards worth a total of \$12,000 will be given to three writers who of the best three books on state of the Muslim women, the role of the Muslim women in today's world and the rights of the Muslim women in the Islamic society, as defined by Islam. (Petra)

AUSTRALIAN MINISTER TO ARRIVE: The Australian Minister of Scientific Research Barry Jones starts a three-day official visit to Jordan Thursday, during which he will hold talks with Tourism Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabari on means of enhancing tourist cooperation between Jordan and Australia, particularly in the area of antiquities exploration. An Australian team is currently taking part in the excavations at Tabaqat Fahl. The Australian minister will visit a number of archaeological and tourist sites in Jordan. (Petra)

ABU END MEETING IN TUNIS: The Arab Broadcasting Union's (ABU) administrative, financial and legal committee concluded its four-day meetings in Tunis, after discussing the final accounts and the budget for the ABU general secretariat. The committee adopted a number of recommendations on the ABU's plans of action and programmes for the next two years and agreed on the criteria to be followed upon forming the unified ABU delegation to the major sports events, including the World Soccer Cup final. Taking part in the meeting were representatives of radio and television stations from Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, and the ABU's general secretariat. (Petra)

SEMINAR ON FOOD ANALYSIS ENDS: A four-day symposium on the scientific methods of drawing food samples for analysis was concluded in Amman Wednesday, after a discussion on the best methods of drawings samples and the measures followed worldwide in observing quality control and laboratory tests of food items. Taking part in the symposium, which was organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, were a number of representatives from the public and private sectors in Jordan. (Petra)

INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Participants in a five-day regional conference Tuesday discussed six working papers dealing with the use of fertilisers through irrigation water. The working papers also dealt on the use of improved methods in increasing agricultural products. The conference which was opened Sunday is organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). (Petra)

YOUTH IN HEALTH DEVELOPMENT: Delegates from 18 Arab countries will gather in Amman Monday for a six-day symposium on the participation of the youth in health development, according to an announcement by the Health Ministry Tuesday. The announcement said that the symposium, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Health Ministry and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will discuss the role which youth can play in promoting community health and encouraging positive attitudes towards healthy life patterns and finding solutions for health problems.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of paintings and photographs on the Palestinian intifada at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Khaled Maszi at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Akram Haddad and Lebanese artist Fatima Hussein at Alla Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition on the Great Arab Revolt which includes photos, maps and documents at the Yarmouk University.
- * An art exhibition marking the second anniversary of the intifada at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- * A book exhibition at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- * The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of photographs showing the development of electric energy industry in the Soviet Union at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Ahsan Nabla at the Royal Cultural Centre (opens Friday).

THEATRE

- * A musical revue entitled Oh Coward at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.

FILM

- * A Soviet film entitled The Needle at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.



Arar receives German, Austrian envoys

The German ambassador to Jordan Wednesday visited the Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sulaiman Arar and congratulated him on his election as speaker. The Austrian ambassador

also visited Arar and conveyed the congratulations of his Austrian counterpart on his election as speaker. The photograph shows Arar with the Austrian ambassador. (Petra)

Obeidat elected president of consumer protection society

AMMAN (J.T.) — The constituent assembly of the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society Wednesday held its first meeting after being officially registered with the Interior Ministry, and elected its administrative committee.

Former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat and former Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat were both elected by acclamation as chairman and deputy chairman of the administrative committee.

The assembly also elected Hamdi Shawwa, Sari Nasser, Idris Al Azzam, Mahmoud Al Khasawneh, Naila Rashdan, Nimrah Tannous and Maha Al Fahoum as members of the administrative committee.

The newly elected administrative committee then elected

Obeidat and Hikmat as president and vice-president of the society respectively.

Hamdi Shawwa was elected secretary, Maha Fahoum as treasurer and Nimrah Tannous as deputy treasurer.

The new administrative committee will hold its first meeting Tuesday to endorse the society's work plan, form the sub-committees and look into requests made for joining the membership of the society.

The establishment of the society was triggered by the difficult economic conditions in Jordan and the resulting price rises and food adulteration.

The society aims to protect citizens against the effects of the price rises, food contamination and adulteration.



Ahmad Obeidat

Symposium calls for pursuing efforts to use shale oil for energy production

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the contribution of private sector in financing electricity projects concluded here Wednesday and adopted a recommendation stressing the importance of pursuing efforts to use shale oil in generating electricity.

The symposium called on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to continue its support for the Jordan Electricity Authority to help it apply the oem method of generating electricity through the use of shale oil available in Jordan, and keep it informed of any new breakthroughs in this regard.

The chief planning engineer at Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), Mohammad Azzam, said that discussions focused on the technology of exploiting shale oil in generating electric power and methods of financing studies designed to apply this technology.

Taking part in the symposium were a number of Jordanian officials, in addition to representatives from the U.S., Pakistan, Malaysia, USAID, the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic and Social Development and representatives from the private sector in Jordan.

MU'TA ALUMNI CLUB: Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafzal has announced that an Alumni Club for Mu'ta graduates will soon be established in order to maintain links between the graduates and the university. Mahafza, who was speaking at a meeting with a group of distinguished students from the civilian wing of Mu'ta University, said also that by the beginning of 1991 most buildings to house the civilian wing will be ready for occupancy.

JUST hosts seminar on medical treatment during pregnancy

RAMTHA (Petra) — A seminar on medical treatment during pregnancy was held Wednesday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The seminar discussed a number of working papers dealing with physiological changes, treatment of chronic diseases, and interaction of medicines during pregnancy.

Opening the seminar, JUST Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dr. Fayed Khasawneh stressed the university's keenness to hold such scientific seminar and noted the JUST role in developing society. He added that the seminar is a bridge of cooperation between JUST and scientific institutions.

Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Siba Ibrahim noted that

continued education has become a necessity to enable pharmacists to follow up scientific development. He also reviewed the Faculty of Pharmacy's activities, achievements, and future plans.

The seminar was attended by the director of Princess Basma

Educational Hospital, members of the staff, and a number of doctors and pharmacists from the private and public sectors.

The seminar was held by the JUST Faculty of Pharmacy in cooperation with the Jordan Pharmacists Association.

Gingerbread house

AMMAN (J.T.) — To celebrate the upcoming season, the Amman Marriott Hotel has added a new feature to its lobby, a life-size gingerbread house, inside which selected seasonal delights will be offered next week.

The gingerbread that makes up this house was baked by Marriott's Executive Chef Wolfgang, newcomer pastry chef Franz and

sous chef Christoph, getting into the spirit of the season.

Apart from the gingerbread house and Amman Marriott's traditional "tallest tree in Amman," the lobby also features a pianist who plays daily from 5-8 p.m. Next week the Marriott Madrigals and the Bell Chorus will be joining in to further enhance the festive atmosphere.

Streets to be named after intifada, PSD martyrs

Amman Municipality expects austerity budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Ali Subeimat Wednesday said that the municipality's budget will be decreased from JD 9.6 million in 1989 to JD 9.3 million in 1990, thus reducing it by JD 300,000 which comes as a result of controlling recurrent expenditures.

Subeimat was speaking following the monthly meeting of the Greater Amman Municipal Committee.

He noted that despite the budget cuts, the municipality will maintain the present levels of services offered to the various areas and stressed that no additional fees or charges will be imposed on the citizens.

However, he noted, the municipality will try to strike a balance between its expected revenues and expenditures and will work seriously on reducing its expenditure.

He pointed out that there will be no new appointments at the municipality and that vacant posts will not be filled except in very special circumstances.

Commenting on the municipal-

ity's budget for the year 1990, he described it as an austerity budget and said that the broadlines of the next budget have been worked out.

He stressed that the municipality will strive to improve its services.

He also said that the municipality will try to benefit from its own property such as the public libraries, gardens and public parks, to ensure additional income that supplements its budget and eases the pressures on its budget as a result of performing its activities on property not belonging to it.

At its meeting, chaired by Subeimat, the Greater Amman Municipal Committee approved the recommendations made by a special committee, to name a number of streets in Tlaa Al Ali



Ali Subeimat

after the people who fell martyrs during the intifada and after the martyrs from the Public Security Department (PSD).

The committee also approved the formation of the municipality's delegation to the forthcoming meeting of the Organisation of Arab Cities, due to be held in Morocco in January.

Conference recommends unifying principles of accountancy, auditing

IRBID (Petra) — The first conference on the role of accountancy, financial and banking operations in economic development and strengthening the banking sector in Jordan.

The conference stressed the need for the application of the new methods of accountancy and financial operations in universities and scientific research institutions, in a bid to achieve the objectives of the development process through the preparation of well-trained cadres.

The conference called for enhancing the role played by the audit bureaus with a view to enabling it to perform the duties entrusted to it.

At the conclusion of their four-day meetings here, participants in

the conference called for directing special attention to the financial policies needed for achieving comprehensive development, and strengthening the banking sector in Jordan.

They also stressed the need for studying means of averting the effects of the fluctuation of exchange rates on the banking and financial institutions in order to achieve stability in the foreign currency market, a prerequisite for achieving monetary and financial stability.

The conference encouraged the merger of existing financial institutions in a bid to create solid institutions, capable of providing loans and financial services to the various sectors with the least possible costs.

The conference also called for improved tax collection methods

in order to secure more revenues. Taking part in the conference, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, were a number of professors and experts from Arab and foreign universities and financial institutions.

The conference discussed 30 working papers on the role of accountancy, banks and financial institutions in the economic development of the developing world, with the main focus on Jordan.

They discussed management of the risks caused by fluctuations of exchange rates, and evaluation of performances in the fields of planning and monitoring.

The conference was organised by the accountancy, financial and banking sciences section at Yarmouk University.

New ministry employees end course

AMMAN (Petra) Eighteen people, recently appointed at the Ministry of Finance, Wednesday concluded a course at the Institute of Public Administration.

The five-day course dealt with topics related to the concept of administration, administrative organisation in Jordan, the objec-

tives and duties of the Ministry of Finance, rights and responsibilities of employees, the organisational chart, and financial instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The course was designed to provide the participants with

basic theoretical and practical information in the field of public administration and to inform them the laws and regulations that govern their professional lives.

It was also intended to increase their efficiency and develop their expertise.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Wake up Mr. Shamir

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's persistence on contending that Jordan is "the Palestinian state" is not intended only to derail the peace process in the Middle East and make a mockery of all the attempts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts. As a matter of fact, there is a deep conviction held by all Arabs and many world analysts that Israel's "peace initiatives", including Shamir's election formula, are only tactical in nature and aim at gaining time to further consolidate the Israeli grip on the occupied territories. But what distinguishes the Shamir doctrine that Jordan is Palestine and Palestine is Jordan is that there is the fact that it contains even more sinister motives behind it, which make it stand out as outrageously wicked. It is clear by now that Israel feeds on civil strife in the Arab World and promotes the balkanisation of the Arab World and the turning of Arab countries into mini states perpetually locked in continuous turmoil. The best evidence of this diabolical strategy is Israeli conspiracies in Lebanon where the Zionist state's hands are still soaked with blood. Obviously the Israelis would like to see what happened in Lebanon repeated everywhere in the Arab World including Jordan, where they would cherish the thought of having Jordanians and Palestinians locked in a bitter conflict like that the Zionists have succeeded to accomplish in Lebanon. Nothing would suit Israel more than to see yet another neighbouring Arab country in a deep quagmire of civil strife and internecine conflict.

But Israel is in for a big surprise. The Palestinian and Jordanian people are responsible people, fully aware of the various conspiracies being manipulated against their harmony and cooperation. Above all, the Palestinian people would never waver from their struggle to establish their own state on their own soil. Likewise, the Jordanian people are a people who are proud of their identity and heritage and determined to fight tooth and nail against any conspiracy no matter where it originates from if it aims to compromise their identity and country. Shamir and his Likud clique are better advised to abstain from making reckless statements against Jordan and its unity and integrity. If Shamir and his short-sighted political allies think that time is on their side forever, they better take note of the fact that Arab rockets can now reach the heart of Israel in a matter of seconds and that the days when Israel could blackmail the Arabs are gone for ever. And if Shamir thinks he can fool some people with his repeated preposterous remarks about Jordan being Palestine or Palestine being Jordan, time will show him that the only people that he is fooling is his own. Better wake up, Mr. Shamir, from your false dreams and nostalgia for conquests of Arab lands because time is indeed working now against you.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Wednesday discussed a visit to Jordan by North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his talks with His Majesty King Hussein on Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) issues and other matters of concern to Jordan and North Yemen.

Al Ra'i daily said that the ACC and its future programme will constitute the main topics on the two leaders agenda as both leaders are determined to employ this grouping as a means to promote Arab unity. The paper said that the two leaders believe that the ACC has an essential role to play in Arab affairs, and this concept prompts them both to exert all possible efforts not only to pave the way for the ACC's Amman summit in February but also to make all ACC's endeavours successful. The paper said, however, that the two leaders are bound to discuss the question of Palestine and the crisis in Lebanon since the two problems are on the mind of the Arab people everywhere and since both leaders are concerned with all matters affecting the whole nation. The Amman meeting, the paper added, also manifests the two countries' concern over the fast moving developments in the Arab arena and their determination to deal with all matters of concern to the Arab Nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday believes that all obstacles in the path of Arab unity have now been removed and the Arabs should not hesitate to take steps leading to such unity. Fahed Al Fanek says in his columns that the Arabs should not remain rigid in their position and their thinking, and ought to cope with and respond to various developments around the world. The writer cites the East-West detente and the many political and economic changes taking place in Europe and notes that the superpowers have now abandoned their old dreams and are no more enemies, and they prefer to deal with the Arabs as a united front rather than mini-states or cantons. The writer also notes that Israel which used to serve as an American frontline ally in the face of the Soviet Union and world Communism, is not considered so by Washington's strategists in the light of U.S.-Soviet rapprochement. Indeed the Americans believe that maintaining large forces in Europe is costly and a burden to the economy; and that Israel itself is no more a strategic ally for America against the Soviet Union, the writer adds. In view of the changes on the international scene and in the light of the economic and political changes that also began to affect the Middle East, the writer points out, the Arabs should not remain passive but ought to show a great measure of flexibility with regard to world events and their impact on their future and should turn their attention to unity with which they can achieve their long term goals and aspirations.

Al Dustour daily newspaper reflected on a statement by the North Yemeni president upon his arrival here in which he emphasised the very strong ties between the Yemeni and Jordanian people and praised the Kingdom's drive to bolster inter-Arab relations. The paper said that the brotherly meeting between Ali Abdullah Saleh and King Hussein, comes amidst fast moving developments on the regional and international scenes and in manifestation of true determination to promote the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in all fields.

Diplomacy of 'assurances'

By Menachem Shalev

IT IS SAID of the U.S. ending of the Vietnam war that Washington "declared victory and withdrew." U.S. Secretary of State James Baker appears to be conducting his Middle East diplomacy along similar lines.

This week, the State Department announced that "Egypt had accepted" Baker's five-point framework for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. Never mind that Egypt itself never used the word "acceptance", and subordinated its "willingness to proceed" to its "consultations with the Palestinian leadership."

Washington then proceeded to tell Israel that Egypt had accepted the plan, sparing decision-makers here the actual language used by the Egyptians as well as the PLO reply attached to Cairo's reply.

Also this week, a State Department spokesman stated that "the U.S. is not seeking a reply from the PLO" to Baker's offer. Never mind that American officials in Tunis have been labouring for weeks to get the PLO to agree to the five points, and that Washington has supplied the PLO with various "assurances" and "clarifications" which caused blood to boil in Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Shamir has stated that the six assumptions

which the inner cabinet attached to its own November 5 acceptance of the Baker formula were part and parcel of the acceptance. Washington states that they are only assumptions and have no bearing on the acceptance.

The next stage for American maneuvering is the sides' requests for "assurances" which are to be concluded before a trilateral meeting of U.S., Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers takes place.

The demands of Israel and the PLO appear, at first, to be mutually exclusive. But Washington has already formulated the assurances it will give to both sides, who can't officially compare notes anyway because they are not talking to each other.

The U.S. administration is using ruse, threats and sleight of hand to overcome the recurring obstacles raised by the difficult and stubborn parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For the underlying theme of American thinking is that the only important matter in the agonising pre-dialogue process is to compose a Palestinian delegation to which Israel will be ready to talk. The start of a dialogue will launch an unstoppable dynamics, the administration believes.

The two crucial matters raised in the requests for assurances are the composition of the Palesti-

nian delegation and the agenda of the dialogue. Following are the positions of the sides, and the probable U.S. replies:

Israel says: The Palestinian delegation will be made up of "Palestinian Arabs, inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

But the PLO says: "The Palestinian delegation will include representatives from both inside and outside the territories."

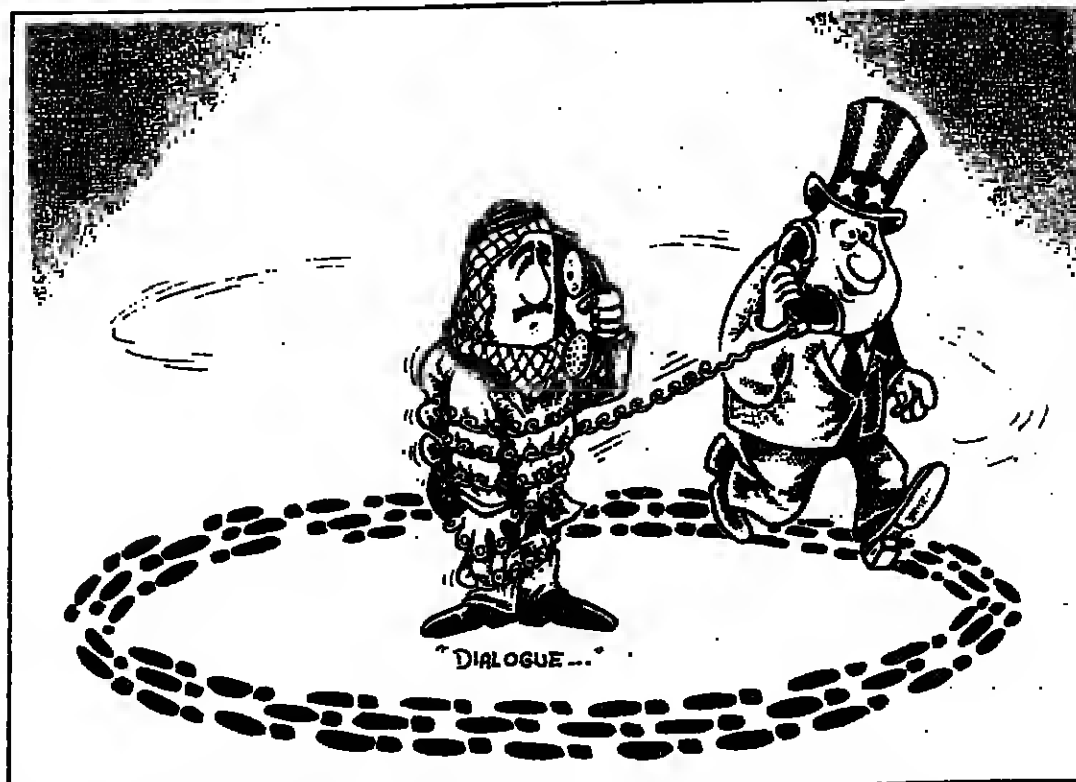
The U.S. tells Israel that it will have to be "flexible" about outside Palestinians, but, in any case, deported Palestinians who will be allowed to return to the territories should be considered "inhabitants" of the territories. It assures the PLO that both inside and outside Palestinians will be included.

Israel says: The delegation must be "acceptable to Israel."

But the PLO says: It will be appointed by the PLO.

The U.S. tells Israel it will not be forced to negotiate with representatives it finds unacceptable; it tells the PLO that it can appoint the delegation, as long as it doesn't brag about it in public.

Washington adds that the U.S. "recognises the reality" that Palestinians will not participate in the process without approval of the PLO, and that Israel will have no veto power over the composition of the Palestinian delegation.



The PLO states that it will appoint the delegation and will not be left out of the process.

The U.S. tells Israel that it knows that Jerusalem will not negotiate with the PLO. It tells the PLO that it is not for Washington to decide who will play the leading role on the Palestinian side; the PLO itself, by its deeds, will determine its role.

Israel says that the "substantive" issue of the dialogue will be the election process.

The PLO says that the agenda of the dialogue will be open to any and all topics.

The U.S. tells Israel that the "Primary focus" or "major issue" in the dialogue will be elections. It tells the PLO that each side, however, will also be allowed to

raise other issues, including Egyptian President Mubarak's ten points — but in "opening statements."

Finally, it is interesting to note that the obstacle which most observers believe will ultimately make or break the start of a dialogue is not mentioned at all in either the Israeli or the Palestinian assumptions: East Jerusalem — The Jerusalem Post.

Democratic goals, scientific discoveries, milestones span the globe in 1989

By Walter C. Putnam
The Associated Press

A CRY for democracy spread around the world in 1989. Silenced by guns in the streets of Beijing, it rose to a roar in Eastern Europe, where it cracked the Berlin Wall and altered relations between East and West.

There was drama elsewhere, too.

A war was ending in Namibia, and there was hope that fighting would end in Angola and Nicaragua. Vietnam pulled troops out of Cambodia. The Soviets completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini died in 1989, a year that also included the Iranian patriarch's call for the killing of author Salman Rushdie. The British author's book, "The Satanic Verses," was deemed blasphemous by Muslim militants.

Deposed Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos and Japanese Emperor Hirohito died, along with some top figures in the arts: Vladimir Horowitz, Laurence Olivier, Lucille Ball.

Voyager 2 sent home breathtaking pictures from space. And there were new warnings about impending environmental hazards on earth.

The most dramatic political events were in Communist nations. Poland cast off the Communist leadership, and Hungary made dramatic reforms, including steps to free elections. The clamor for change drove out Communist leaders in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and altered the party structure of Bulgaria.

The Soviet Union, led by the "new thinking" of President Mikhail Gorbachev, held historic elections of its own and looked on approvingly as East bloc neighbours moved away from authoritarian Communism.

"There's a kind of movement bringing states, countries and continents together," Gorbachev said at his December Malta summit with U.S. President George Bush.

Gorbachev said "the world leaves one epoch of cold war, and enters another epoch." Bush was reluctant to declare the cold war over but said the superpower relationship was "vastly improved."

The years began with the mystery of the bombing of Pan Am 103 over Scotland. As it neared its close, there was still no answer. And in between there was the similar bombing of a French UTA airliner over the desert of Niger.

Lebanon, after six months of increased fighting between Muslims and Christians, chose a new president and hoped to end 14 years of civil war. But the president, Rene Muawad was killed by a bomb. Elias Hrawi was named as a replacement to continue efforts towards a settlement.

The United States began talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, aimed at finding peace with Israel. Palestinians, still seeking a homeland, continued their 2-year-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The new U.S. administration of President Bush eased off support for Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, and the Central American nation planned to hold elections early in 1990. But U.S. pressure increased on Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega. He wound up voiding spring elections, and months later survived a coup attempt in which the United States was implicated.

Two Japanese prime ministers — Noboru Takeshita and Soudsuki Uno — fell from power in rapid succession due to political scandal and an unpopular tax. South

Africa had some of its largest anti-apartheid demonstrations ever, and began removing racial barriers at beaches and some other public places. Namibia, meanwhile, chose an assembly to chart a path to independence.

Paraguay's dictator, Alfredo Stroessner, was overthrown in a coup. His country and many other Latin American countries held free elections — some for the first time in decades.

Colombia declared war on cocaine barons. The drug traffickers responded by launching a campaign of terror.

President Corazon Aquino survived another coup attempt in the Philippines, but the military left confidence in her government more strained at home and abroad.

Oil spills stained pristine portions of Alaska and Antarctica. And earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons and floods killed hundreds of people. More than 700 died in tornadoes in Bangladesh, and San Francisco was rocked by its worst quake since 1906.

Gorbachev was confronted with autonomy movements in the Baltics and with related unrest in Moldavia, Armenia and Azerbaijan that presented a quandary between democratic ideals and political realities.

On June 4, the Chinese government's response to weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations shocked the world. Hundreds of civilians were killed when troops moved to crush the student-led protests at Tiananmen Square.

That same day, Solidarity finished first in the Polish elections, beginning a process culminating with the election of trade union newspaper editor Tadeusz Mazowiecki as premier, East Europe's first non-Communist leader in 40 years.

With or without reforms, Communist nations remained stagnant

economically in 1989. Although most major capitalist powers performed strongly, economists said some slowing of growth is likely in the coming year.

There was little progress in attempts to ease crushing foreign debts in Africa and Latin America. Meanwhile, with the 12 European Community nations set to eliminate all internal barriers by 1992, executives elsewhere pondered their chances in a European market they feared might become a protectionist "fortress Europe."

Years of research paid off in 1989 with important discoveries in space. After a 12-year journey, the \$865-million Voyager 2 space probe sent home its electronic impressions of Neptune and its moons, in a finale to its journey around the solar system.

The U.S. space shuttle Atlantis launched the Magellan probe to Venus and the Galileo probe to Jupiter. The Soviet Union sent cosmonauts to re-occupy its Mir space station after a four-month break and reaped new data about Mars before its Phobos II probe was lost.

Astronomers in the United States also announced discovery of the oldest and farthest object ever found in the universe: a star-like body called a quasar about 14 billion years old and about 131 trillion billion kilometres from earth.

The year saw historical celebrations as well as moments of mourning. In 1989, France marked the 200th anniversary of the French revolution.

The music world lost conductor Herbert von Karajan and composer Irving Berlin. Others who died included painter Salvador Dali, writers Robert Penn Warren, Georges Simenon and Daphne du Maurier, comedians Graham Chapman and Lucille Ball, actress Bette Davis and Mel



Blank, the voice of Bugs Bunny and other cartoon characters.

People worldwide contemplated the future of the planet.

Brazil launched a project calling for protected zones where rain forest dwellers can harvest rubber and other products without harming the land.

A conference on global warming in the Netherlands called for stabilising carbon dioxide emissions. But two of the world's largest industrialised nations, the

United States and Japan, refused to commit themselves to such restrictions by the year 2000.

An ozone conference of 123 nations in London ended with 53 nations agreeing to halve emissions of ozone-destroying chemicals by the end of the century.

The United States, and the 12-nation European Economic Community pledged to try to ban the chemicals, called chlorofluorocarbons, by 1995 if safe alternatives can be developed.

OPEN FORUM

Time-wasting missions

SINCE the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in 1967, God knows how many "fact-finding missions" were sent to the region to find out the "true" situation of Palestinians under occupation. There were church groups and non-government organisations missions, as well as quite a few United (U.N.) fact-finding missions.

For sure what has been happening during the Palestinian intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is no secret — thanks to the international media's coverage of the uprising. So what exactly is the purpose of all these missions?

One can understand one fact-finding mission from each organisation. But it seems this has become a habit for some organisations, especially the U.N.

Does the U.N. not know what the situation is like for Palestinians living in the squalid refugee camps in the occupied territories? I'm sure the situation can be cleared with some co-ordination with UNRWA. After all, UNRWA is part of the U.N.

Does the U.N. not know that Palestinian people, including children and women are being killed and injured by Israeli bullets? Does the U.N. not know that Palestinian children and youth have been deprived of a formal education for the past two years? Does the U.N. not know that homes are being demolished or sealed off, people expelled leaving their families behind, and scores arrested and imprisoned with out trial?

Does the U.N. have to continue sending individuals to this part of the world, spend money on their plane tickets and numerous accommodations, so they could interview a few Palestinians about life under Israeli occupation? Since the U.N. is running on a tight budget, why not spend the money where it is really needed? Let the U.N. refer to other reports on the occupied territories, conducted by other fact-finding missions that have been shelved. Let them refer to the thousands of reports filed by the media during the last two years, instead of spending time and money on the obvious.

What has the U.N. General Assembly actually done as a result of these missions? Since 1948 the U.N. General Assembly has done nothing for the Palestinian cause, except create resolutions that are opposed by the U.S., Israel's mother supporter — two member states that are "sensitive" on this issue.

Facts are facts. Whether 600 or 900 Palestinians were killed by Israelis, or whether 57,000 or 40,000 were injured, the fact is it has happened, and it is clear.

It is time the world body did something substantial about this problem, rather than wasting time and money; that is, if the U.N. really wants to do something about it.

Sana Al-Jabir

Dramatic steps towards European unity

By Maureen Johnson
The Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France — The 12-nation European Community, under pressure to integrate in the face of upheaval to the East, took dramatic steps on the path towards uniting Europe at a weekend summit here.

It remains a rocky and uncertain road, with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher maintaining a lone stance against plans for economic and monetary integration and community-wide welfare and workers' rights.

But the leaders of the wealthy club encompassing 320 million people emerged from the two-day summit declaring themselves united in a new role as a single West European bloc committed to reaching out towards the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

"Henceforth there is no longer a Europe in two parts acting in the shadows or at the initiative of the two superpowers," declared summit host, French President Francois Mitterrand, winding up the meeting on Saturday.

"Clearly, as of today we can say Malta belongs more and more to history," he said of the 1945 conference at the end of World War II that divided the continent of Europe between East and West.

The rhetoric, at least, echoed a

call by U.S. President George Bush last week to the European Community to intensify efforts to integrate and become "a magnet that draws the forces of reform forward in Eastern Europe."

But from Mitterrand, the most flamboyantly outspoken advocate of European unity, to Mrs. Thatcher, the often-prickly pragmatist, the leaders displayed a new political will to act together to encourage change and guard against anarchy.

"Despite disagreements, what emerges most strongly from this summit is the degree to which the community... can act as the driving force for the development of the whole of Europe at a turning point in the continent's history," Mrs. Thatcher said at a news conference.

She reiterated her lone dissent from the decisions to press ahead with the monetary union and to adopt a "social charter."

But she sounded conciliatory compared to her combative attitude during past bitter internal disputes over issues ranging from farm subsidies to whether the community is supposed to be a trading bloc or an embryonic political federation.

Mrs. Thatcher's low-key tone may also have been spurred by polls in Britain showing most voters now disapprove of her

tough line in the community. A Gallup poll published Saturday in London's Daily Telegraph showed 49 per cent of voters questioned disapproved, compared with 38 per cent approval. The rest had no opinion.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who combined with Mitterrand to override Mrs. Thatcher's objections to the monetary union conference, went home well-pleased with having secured backing from the summit for eventual German reunification.

It is a sensitive issue in a continent that was overrun by Hitler's Germany in World War II and in peace is dominated by the powerful economy of West Germany alone.

Britain apparently raised no objections to a statement of support for reunification.

But France, the Netherlands and Italy all expressed reservations.

The final statement was agreed only after Kohl spelled out that by a reunified Germany he meant only the two existing German nations, East Germany and West Germany, and not German-speaking areas in neighbouring countries.

"We seek the strengthening of the state of peace in Europe in

which the German people will regain its unity through free self-determination," the statement said.

On monetary integration, the community leaders agreed to convene an intergovernmental conference in December 1990 to start negotiations on establishing a single currency and one system of central banks for the 12 countries.

Mrs. Thatcher said Britain would go along with the negotiations which are expected to take several years. But she indicated that Britain may veto any final attempt to have one currency and the central bank system.

She shrugged off being brushed aside on the issue of the "social charter," which is non-binding.

"It is a pity," she said, "but the outcome is no great tragedy."

The community leaders left Strasbourg committed to intensifying dialogue with the Soviet Union and other reform-minded East European nations. They also pledged to set up a European development bank to assist new European democracies and held out the possibility of special trade and other links with them.

Said Kohl, "we have made a substantial step forward... We have said there is no alternative to the promise of European unification."

Focus on People

The times are changing

By Marian M. Shahin

A PRODUCTIVE and constructive element in any society is one that provides an outlet for the better for all concerned. While many may argue that what is good for some may not necessarily be good for others, it may be appropriate to say here that while a majority rules and the rights of a minority are respected, may they be ethnic, racial, religious or ideological there is little to be concerned about.

Once barriers of communication are removed and mutual respect is established then all people will be able to contribute willingly, constructively and even lovingly to the whole being. The being, of course, comes in different shapes and sizes. It may be the being of one, of a union of two people, a family, a village, a city, a country, a region, and finally a world. Education may be the single most important element in the development of the state of mind, which allows for a being to become whole. This may sound like a philosophical journey, but it is not; it is a look at where we in Jordan are and where we have the option to go.

This week Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, a former Georgetown University and University of Jordan political science professor and an unsuccessful candidate in the Nov. 8 elections, speaks to Focus on People about his views on where higher education in Jordan is today and where it could go.

Mustafa Hamarneh was born in Zarqa in 1953. He attended the Lutheran School in Jerusalem until after the 1967 war. He set for his twelfth and graduated from the King Hussein College in Amman, from where he received a scholarship to continue his higher education in Spain. In 1978 he received the equivalent of an MA in economics from the University in Spain. Subsequently he attended Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he graduated with a masters in history in 1979 and a doctorate in economic history in 1985. He taught social history, history of the Middle East and a "Foreign service" course entitled "History of the non-Western World - 1492 to the present." From 1987 to 1989 Hamarneh taught history at the University of Jordan. He resigned at the end of the first semester in 1989 to seek a seat in Parliament.

"The most exciting course I ever taught was the history course," — History of the non-Western world — 1492 to the present — which I could teach it in Jordan," Hamarneh says, obviously brimming with enthusiasm at the thought.

"Of course, I could not teach it while I was at the University of Jordan, where I am presently trying to get my old job back."

However, "teaching at the UJ was neither a pleasant nor a rewarding experience," Hamarneh says frankly.

"Faculty members have a minute possibility of intellectual development when they have to teach four courses per semester; that is, if they really want to teach. There is no time for research, no time for publishing and an embarrassing absence of seminars. Any attempt to change the system is immediately stopped by the administration. One is threatened with (the prospect of losing) one's livelihood if one resists," Hamarneh complains.

When Hamarneh introduced relevant novels to the curriculum of his history classes, it caused an uproar on campus and when he started giving take home exams he was told to stop.

"Social sciences are not anecdotes or questionnaires. Real professors don't just walk into a classroom give a lecture and leave. Our students have not been equipped in any way to be sociologists, philosophers, historians or economists. There is always the odd exception but we don't want an exception. We want an educated people," he says.

The professor insists that, except for those exceptions, university students at the university are not "molded. Most of them have never been able to enjoy campus life and their aim is to graduate by making a minimum effort."

"When students don't challenge their teachers," Hamarneh says, "teachers often fail to develop and in turn fail to challenge their students." "What is needed is a system that puts everyone to work, students, teachers, administrators, everyone," Hamarneh argues. He feels that the UJ is in dire need of tremendous reforms because most of its graduates "are not able to do a job well."

"What use is it to have a high percentage of university graduates and a high literacy rate if these graduates are not equipped to do a proper job because the education they got was poor?" he asks. Hamarneh insists. "Reason for reform is there and it can be done." Hamarneh insists. "Faculty members have to be able to organise committees to discuss the university's situation and discuss how one can best deal with the situation, taking into account the society's needs," he says.

So far, Hamarneh insists, Arab and Islamic history has been taught at the UJ as "a history of angels."

"Our history is not approached with a critical eye in any sense. My definition of the study of history is the study of social changes in time and place. One must study the experiences of other peoples and nations. World trends, sociological, economic, and political as well as ideological concepts have to be taught. How are our students expected to deal with the world if they don't know the first thing about it?"

"Except for some skimming of European history there is nothing. Our students are not taught about South America, Africa or Asia and only very little about North America and the Soviet Union."

"The university's curricula needs overhauling," he asserted.

"Did you hear one academic explanation of why we had an economic crisis? Did we have one Jordanian professor make an analysis and write or talk about it? Did any academic talk about the earth-shattering political reforms that are taking place in this country?"

"History is being made and our historians are still writing about the 14th century. I think this indicates the level of intellectual vigour that is being poured in our higher education institutions. People are either not able to say something or they don't know. Which is worse? — you judge," Hamarneh sits back.

Hamarneh ran for the Christian seat in Madaba constituency in the Nov. 8 elections. "I ran for a seat in Parliament because I believe if we have patriotic, committed and qualified people in Parliament at this transitional period in our history then there is hope to make a few necessary changes. People living 20 to 30 years from now will wish they would have been able to participate in what is happening now," Hamarneh says.

He ran on a platform which emphasised anti-corruption policies, adequate planning facilities, minimisation of the "human cost" and radical reforms in higher education.

"I campaigned strictly on the issues which was unusual, it seems. I called for equal rights for women which did not do well with some people. I called for abolishing all laws that violate basic human rights. I called for a rational approach to the economic situation and a release of 'prisoners of conscience' as well as setting a new list of priorities which would include the development of the agrarian sector and an increase in agricultural exports."

Hamarneh was the first candidate in Madaba to campaign with a "mobile tent." He also refused to run as a tribal candidate. Subsequently, Hamarneh says, some members of his own family lobbied against him.

"When I talked to people I did not tell them I'll be coming to their weddings and funerals. All I said was that I was running for Parliament and what my platform was. I did not tell them that I was a 'Christian' candidate running for the 'Christian' seat and I did not feed them mansaf or kumaj, although I love mansaf," he recalls.

Unfortunately, Hamarneh believes, he and his supporters could not properly take advantage of the fact that he had advantages over other candidates. "We had little funds, no staff as such, little organisation and my supporters basically believed that once people heard me talk they could not but vote for me."

"First, there was never a follow-up to my campaign lectures or visits. Then wherever I went rumours followed me. They ran in a tune — 'his wife is American, she won't welcome us in if we need him, he went to an American school, Georgetown, therefore he can't be a man of the people; he is friend with some members of the royal family, so he is elite; his father was a senior army officer, so he is an army man.' These facts about myself and my family were talked about, misconstrued and used against me by the other candidates. It was a real crisis. I spent most of my time trying to prove that I stood for my ideas, not my American wife, my army officer father, my royal friends or the University of Georgetown. It was very difficult trying to prove you a people's man when they think you are the definition of elite."

"All these things are not issues but the opposition candidates in Madaba certainly made them into issues. All of the sudden everyone in Madaba had heard of Georgetown and thought it was near the Pentagon — now just think of all those implications. Hallelujah!"

"None of the Christian candidates agreed to sit with me in a debate in Madaba. Don't ask me why not; I would not want to be accused of specialising."

Although Hamarneh had made no secret about his stand on women's rights, he was informed that registered women voters in Madaba were being told that "if anyone did what I did, namely marry an American, then all Jordanian girls would end up as spinsters. So don't vote for him."

Mustafa hopes to return to his teaching job at the University of Jordan soon "if they allow me." Presently he is taking care of his father's farm in the south where he runs a nursery of vegetable seedlings. He is also writing a book about British policies in Jordan from 1921 to 1946, which is almost exclusively based on primary sources. "In a era of breakthroughs I hope my book will be a breakthrough on its own level. We are living in very interesting times."

By Sana Atiyeh

Walking through some of the hospitals in Amman, one gets a sense of anguish, pain and human suffering, a sense of devastation that only war could bring. The battlefield in Palestine is so very close, yet so very far. On occasion a TV shot, a poster, a maimed child in his hospital bed brings the intifada home to us.

There are approximately 20 Palestinians from the occupied territories ranging between the ages of 8 months and 60 years who are receiving medical treatment in Jordan. The injuries occurred as a result of Israeli bullets, teargas exposure and beatings with batons.

These patients were not able to receive the medical treatment they needed in Arab hospitals in the occupied territories because of lack of sufficient facilities and lack of specialised doctors in many fields.

While some are more than willing to talk about their experience to the press others have acquired a sense of mistrust and bitterness towards a press they feel is indifferent to their suffering and concerned solely with the sensational aspect of the Israeli — Arab conflict.

"These foreign and American journalists, they come to take pictures of my son and others who were injured. What have the Americans ever done for us? Or do they want to see how they can develop their weapons so they can give them to the Israelis to kill our children?" said a mother of a fourteen year old boy who was shot by Israeli soldiers.

Her son was shot in the West Bank town of Nahhalin on April 13 in what became known as the massacre of Nahhalin, where five Palestinians were killed.

"That day, the Israeli army attacked our town and they really want to teach. There is no time for research, no time for publishing and an embarrassing absence of seminars. Any attempt to change the system is immediately stopped by the administration. One is threatened with (the prospect of losing) one's livelihood if one resists," Hamarneh complains.

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Steadfast — against all odds

under the skin of his right thigh and removed.

The Dumdum effect

The recent bullet that was found was what Palestinians known as the "dumdum." This is a soft-nosed, high velocity bullet, when it hits the bone, it fragments into small pieces, injuring other parts of the body.

Many of the intifada injuries being treated in Jordan are a result of the "dumdum." Shukri Mansour from Ramallah was 16 when he was shot by three "dumdum" bullets in the back during the Birzeit university demonstration a year before the intifada started. Three years later, Shukri is paralysed and is still receiving medical attention in a hospital here.

"During that incident in December 86, there was an Israeli ambush on Birzeit university. The clashes were so violent, three Shebab (youth) were martyred, and 19 were injured," Shukri recalled.

He added that the clashes continued for four days, with the Israeli army trying to occupy the university, and the Shebab trying to prevent them.

"The Shebab eventually succeeded in preventing the army from entering the campus," Shukri said proudly.

Abeer Sweis from Tulkarem, was also shot by Israeli soldiers with five bullets, one of which was a "dumdum."

"I was injured last January during a march honouring a martyr, and the Israeli army ambushed us. It was very violent. The wound affected the nerves in my arm, and it was almost completely paralysed," Abeer, 19, told the Jordan Times.

She came to a hospital in Amman, where she had a ten-hour nerve graft operation, which was successful. She was able to move her arm again.

When Abeer was shot, there was no ambulance to take her to hospital, but the Shebab were able to take her there.

"The Shebab carried me away. But as a result, three guys were wounded, and another guy and girl were martyred while they tried to help me. But it only took 15 minutes to get me to a hospital in Amman, although the city was under curfew and declared a closed military zone. But with the strength of the Shebab and our faith, we were able to arrive quickly, and an operation was successfully conducted," Abeer remembered.

Many of the injured Palestinians — numbering 57,000 during the intifada, leaving 5,000 handicapped — were injured by sitting at home or in the streets minding their own business; that is, not throwing stones at the Israeli army. Some of the younger children receiving treatment in Jordanian hospitals suffered teargas inhalations and burns as a result of the canisters shot inside homes, schools and sometimes hospitals.

Going back home

Nabil Banna and Jawad Abu Za'rur, both 21 from Nablus were injured by Israeli bullets and still under medical treatment, both agreed to speak to the Jordan Times about their experience. Khalid Saeed, 20, from Gaza city and Salam Ahmad, 22, from Nablus were fatally shot during Israeli ambushes. All of them are left with some form of handicap.

These young Palestinians all

said they are going back home in the occupied territories after their treatment is finished here. And they expressed hope and optimism about what their future holds concerning an independent Palestinian state, stressing the continuation of the intifada.

"Our demanded aspirations and goals will become a reality — the establishment of our independent state and our right to self-determination. Godwilling, we will all be on our land," Nabil said.

Shukri believes that the intifada will continue until independence.

"People all over the world must know that no matter how

long our cause continues, the Palestinian people will achieve their goals and aspirations, through any means," Shukri said.

Kmeil said that Palestinians must be patient, "because eventually God always rewards those who suffer."

Raji, he said he will return home to Nablus to continue his struggle. For him, his missing leg is an honour.

"My amputated leg does not matter, I have my mind," Raji said. "People everywhere should know that the intifada is our duty and honour: it will not stop until the last Palestinian child. If we have to eat dirt, we will remain steadfast against the occupation."

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ITC, UNDP enlighten Jordanians on export credit guarantee path

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan, recognising the vital importance of the export sector, not only plans to improve, expand and strengthen this area but also seeks to establish an integrated export credit guarantee and insurance scheme to penetrate new markets, Dr. Mohammad Saleh Hourani, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Wednesday.

Addressing an audience of bankers, exporters and representatives of various ministries and other Jordanian economic bodies, Hourani said that the CBJ had a "deep commitment to export growth through an export credit discount programme which, since 1980, makes available low interest rate credits to eligible exporters, and covers both pre-shipment and post-shipment financial requirements."

But, Hourani noted, the current economic situation has necessitated a more substantive role to be played by the proposed establishment of an export credit guarantee and insurance agency in Jordan.

Professor D.P. Gupta, senior adviser on export financial services at the International Trade Centre (ITC), which collaborated with the CBJ in organising the seminar, explained in a speech that the agency under recommendation was an advanced technique, "which builds on a sophisticated banking infrastructure in

a country with a leading role from the central bank.

Gupta grouped the Central Bank of Jordan among the best managed in nearly 60 developing countries where he had conducted financial studies for various governments. However, he invited Jordanians to obtain more expertise and techniques from ITC as its rich experiences can be very fruitful.

Noting that Jordan has achieved remarkable economic progress in the past few months, Gupta said if "pre-shipment" financial arrangements can be well organised, Jordanian exporters can do wonders.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan, another co-sponsor for the seminar, was represented by Dr. Tawfiq Ibn Amarah, who stressed that exporters anywhere in the world would fail if they do not receive active banking backing.

Ibn Amarah, UNDP deputy director, said that banks were usually import-oriented and that they took a passive interest in promoting exports, "wrongfully thinking that the job is that of the government or the exporters themselves."

Emphasising the constant change in the banking industry and world trade in an era of high competitiveness, Ibn Amarah highlighted the global role of the ITC as probably being the only international organisation active in the field of export promotion and development.

On UNDP activities in Jordan, he mentioned a \$775,000 project for export promotion and diversification being conducted by the Jordan Commercial Centre Corporation with the technical assistance of ITC.

Dr. Farouk Al Kharouf, director-general of Finance Accountancy Mohassaba S.A. in Geneva (a subsidiary of Arab Bank Ltd.), opened the working session by explaining the mechanism of export financing which, he said, is

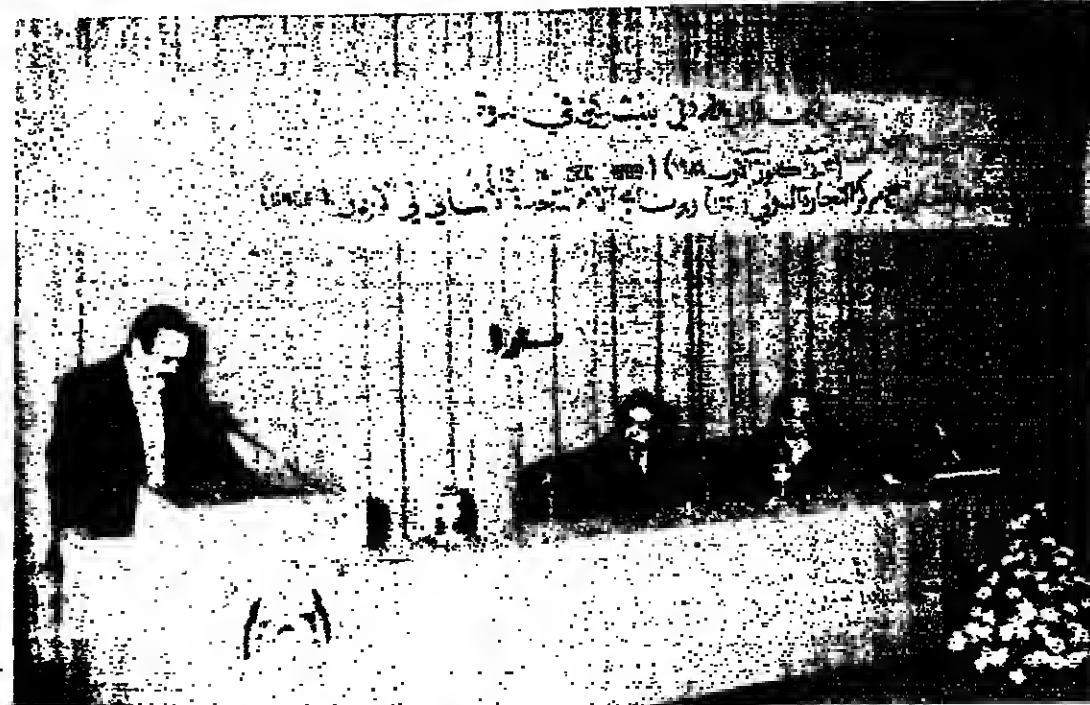
nowadays influenced by the buyer country dictating the price, quality, delivery and credit terms.

As a result, Kharouf added, banks should be active partners to exporters and not only profit-takers seeking only high and quick returns.

Kharouf said Jordan should do a comprehensive study on available resources and the needs of outside potential importers along with measures towards diversifying manufacturing products.

He noted that export financing is becoming all the more important because mainly commodities and raw material exports are being hindered by demand fluctuations, wrong domestic pricing, growing competition and quantitative and other restrictions imposed by the developed world.

Dr. Alex Koupparis, senior trade promotion adviser and project coordinator at the UNDP-ITC Export Development Project in Jordan, said the basic weakness for Jordan exports was the centralisation on regional markets and therefore "expansion is



CBJ Deputy-Governor Mohammad Saleh Hourani (left) and ITC senior adviser D.P. Gupta (right) flanked by UNDP Deputy-Director Tawfiq Ibn Amarah (center) at the seminar.

a must."

He revealed that before the end of this month a report would be submitted to the government on a study that was done on East African markets to absorb Jordanian products.

Koupparis also announced that a "selling mission" will go to

Europe in January to promote Jordanian products.

The seminar continues Thursday, with a presentation from Dr. Mohammad Omar Shawari, an expert working at the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) in Kuwait. Shawari said Wednesday that IAIGC had

granted cover to Jordanian exporters in nine countries.

The seminar Thursday is expected to be more dynamic as it focuses on setting up the special agency to bridge the gap between banks and exporters each pulling in opposite directions to meet their own ends.

India draws new course

NEW DELHI (R) — India's new socialist Finance Minister Madhav Dandavate said Wednesday pragmatism not ideology would steer his efforts to change the economy.

"We can't be more orthodox than Mr. (Mikhail) Gorbachev," he said in reference to the Kremlin leader's efforts to rescue the Soviet economy through radical reforms.

But Dandavate, at his first news conference since taking office last week, said the basic aim of protecting the poor from market forces would not be compromised.

He said changes would be made gradually, especially on the new minority government's bid to increase employment in the rural areas where more than 70 per cent of India's 810 million people live.

"We must create a climate of austerity. Consumption will have to be checked," Dandavate said.

He said the government would simplify India's infamous bureaucratic maze which was a deterrent to investment and an encouragement to corruption.

Dandavate would not say he would reverse former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's tentative liberalisation of India's traditional

closed economy. But he said imports and foreign investment would be allowed only when essential.

Dandavate also hinted India would go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to boost foreign exchange reserves.

He expressed concern about India's growing foreign debt, an expanding trade deficit and falling foreign exchange reserves, which officials said were about \$3 billion, or two months of imports.

He said no decision had been taken to go to the IMF but added: "If any conditionality is imposed that violates our basic policy, we will not accept a loan."

That basic policy would include: cutting the trade deficit by only importing commodities or components, "where it is necessary and inevitable." The same would apply to foreign investment.

That did not mean foreign investment would not be allowed, Dandavate said. "But our aim is to gradually see a self-reliant economy so the need to borrow will go down and our foreign debt dwindle."

The trade gap, up from \$4 billion in the previous year to \$4.5 billion in the 1988-89 financial year ending March, was a serious

concern, he said.

"We will see that imports are selective, both in terms of the commodities or components we buy and the point of time the imports are made," Dandavate said.

He said India's foreign debt stood at \$44 billion at the end of March, with a debt service ratio of 26 to 27 per cent, and would rise by the end of the current year.

By then the debt would stand at about \$59 billion, including deposits by non-resident Indians.

The \$44 billion did not include those deposits, about \$9 billion on March 31, and Dandavate declined to say what the sum would be at the end of the current financial year.

China orders return to more central planning

PEKING (R) — China has ordered a return to greater central planning in its economy under new rules that strengthen state control of industry and could starve the private sector of raw materials.

The China Daily Wednesday published rules under which the state will grab a greater share of industrial output. Enterprises which fail to deliver may have their supplies of raw materials cut.

"Under a new policy to give the central government more control over the economy, industrial firms are told to surrender part of their sales autonomy next

year," the newspaper said.

Factories with government investment must hand over part of their output as a form of state tax from next year.

"This is clearly a leap back to old-style communism," said one diplomat.

The state already demands a share of production from many but the amount is generally negotiable. Under a programme of reforms begun in 1978, state firms had been given greater freedom in marketing their products.

Western diplomats said the new rules were an attempt by hardline communists who ousted reformers in June to expand the

state sector at the expense of private enterprise.

They would allow the government to direct a bigger share of scarce raw materials to the state sector — the segment of the economy favoured by orthodox Marxists.

Diplomats said this would probably mean worse shortages for private companies and collectives which are the fastest growing part of the economy.

Key enterprises would fall under complete government control and supplies would be reduced to firms which failed to fulfil their production quotas, the

newspaper said.

The China Daily said the government aimed to raise its control over the national production of iron and steel, coal, timber and non-ferrous metals from a level currently less than 50 per cent.

An internal government document recently obtained by Reuters said the state planned to assume total control over China's coal industry.

"In the past few years, the state has not received what it expected," the China Daily quoted Han Zhonghan, an official in the ministry of materials and equipment as saying.

"Factories prefer to sell products themselves rather than hand them to the state," he added, saying that this situation should change.

Diplomats said the new controls would slash profitability by reducing the amount companies could sell on the free market where prices are higher.

Lower earnings may smother incentive in some factories while local managers eager to carry favour with newly-empowered central officials may resort to corruption, the diplomats added.

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France scraps currency controls from Jan. 1

PARIS (Agencies) — France's last remaining currency controls will be lifted Jan. 1, 1990, the finance ministry has announced.

The widely anticipated move will allow French residents to hold foreign currency accounts inside the country and open bank accounts outside France.

Under a timetable set up by European Community, France and most other common market countries have until July 1, 1990 to lift their controls on capital movement, Spain, Portugal and Greece have until Jan. 1, 1993.

The bulk of France's currency controls covering major capital movement by corporations were dismantled gradually in a series of steps that began in 1984.

The ministry said in a statement the lifting of the controls reflects government "confidence in the good health of the French economy and in the stability of our currency."

The move also underlines "our desire to accelerate progress toward European Monetary Union," the statement said.

A ministry spokeswoman confirmed that French residents will be obliged to notify authorities when they open foreign bank accounts, as they must do for accounts opened in France.

Currency traders said the announcement did not have any

impact on the foreign exchange market. They said the lack of response reflected the relatively limited scope of the remaining controls and market's knowledge that they were already scheduled to come down by July 1, 1990 at the latest.

Seoul fears stock crash

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The government announced special measures Tuesday aimed at preventing a possible crash of South Korea's tumbling stock market. Among other measures, Finance Minister Lee Kyu-Sung pledged an unlimited supply of bank funds to investment trust companies buying stocks.

The action came as South Korea's key stock index dropped to 844 points Monday, the year's lowest level, after nine days of consecutive losses. Tuesday, it gained 34.7 points, closing at 879.46. Lee said more foreign funds would be lured into the South Korean stock market, indicating an early opening of the domestic securities market to foreign investors. South Korea has been reluctant to open its capital market.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, December 13, 1989		Central Bank official rates	
U.S. dollar	641.0	647.0	
Pound Sterling	1030.4	1040.7	
Deutschemark	375.8	379.6	
Swiss franc	414.3	417.4	
French franc	109.7	110.8	
Japanese yen (for 100)	446.2	450.7	
Dutch guilder	233.0	236.3	
Swedish crown	103.1	104.1	
Italian lira (for 100)	50.1	50.6	
Belgian franc (for 10)	176.5	178.3	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6090/100	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1605/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.7220/30	Deutschemark	
	1.9425/35	Dutch guilders	
	1.5645/55	Swiss francs	
	36.23/28	Belgian francs	
	5.8850/900	French francs	
	1279/1280	Italian lire	
	143.70/80	Japanese yen	
	6.2380/430	Swedish crowns	
	6.6550/600	Norwegian crowns	
	6.6900/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	416.70/417.20	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices managed only slight gains in quiet trading as the market largely ignored a strong lead from Wall Street. The All Ordinaries index closed 2.5 higher at 1,615.2.

TOKYO — Prices climbed to new highs, buoyed by foreign arbitrageurs buying on the Nikkei index, which pierced the 38,000-mark. It closed up 258.89 at 38,062.42.

HONG KONG — Active local and foreign buying pushed the Hang Seng index to its highest since China's June 4 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters. The index gained 42.26 to 2,851.84.

SINGAPORE — The market closed firm after sustained buying by institutions in brisk trading. The Straits Times Industrial index rose 9.48 to a post-1987 crash high of 1,464.29.

BOMBAY — Widespread profit-taking led by institutional investors halted soaring shares for the first time in two weeks and brought prices broadly down, brokers said. The exchange index fell 31.76 points to 761.23.

FRANKFURT — West German shares slid sharply amid uncertainty about the dollar, which fell to lows near 1.70 marks overnight. The DAX index finished 14.53 points lower to close at 1,638.54.

ZURICH — Shares closed lower across the board as the market recovered only slightly from a wave of selling after the national bank said it was tightening its Lombard rate facility. The performance index fell 11.6 points to close at 1,124.7.

PARIS — Prices closed lower on fears of high interest rates. The CAC index ended 11.59 points down at 1,960.42.

LONDON — Share prices remained strong in active trading as a shortage of sellers squeezed the market. By 1640 GMT the FTSE was about 22 points up at 2,384.3.

NEW YORK — Blue chips extended Tuesday's gains in late morning trading but the general market was mixed on profit taking. The Dow was trading at 2,766.64 by 1640 GMT.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"This year I want to spend more for your sister's Christmas present. What flavor gum does she like?"

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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WYSEN

SNUIGE

YIRRA

ANSWER: "GIRRO" MAKE A

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIC QUILT MELODY CARPET

Answer: What face should never be—

OUT OF "P-LACE"

(Answers Monday)

ANSWER: "GIRRO" MAKE A

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIC QUILT MELODY CARPET

Answer: What face should never be—

OUT OF "P-LACE"

(Answers Monday)

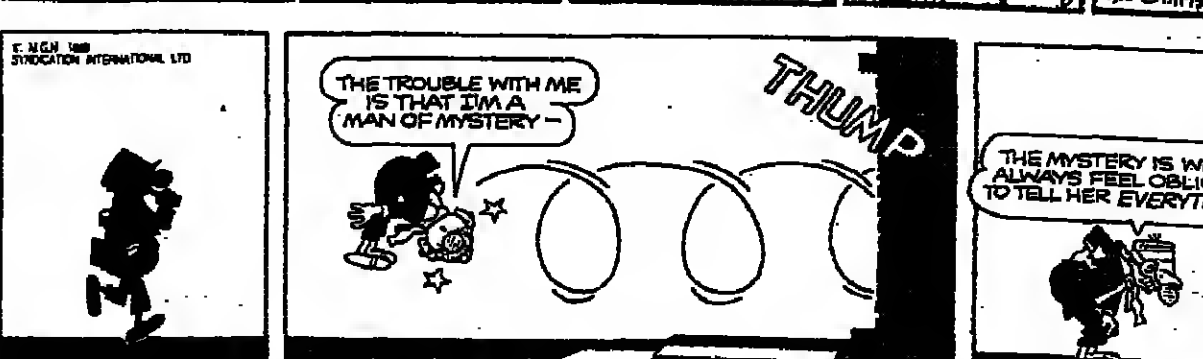
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Diana C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- Other
- Local
- Exotic food
- Admire
- Pointed stick
- Assault
- Women
- Authors
- Smash on
- Orange covers
- Waggle
- On in years
- Spinning
- Victim's look
- Slavic native
- Monks
- Women
- Authors
- Threaten sign
- Ex. chemist
- Orchestra
- member
- Acrop. tale
- Baseball VPs
- Desert item
- At (in any)
- event
- Raped
- Women
- Authors
- Adams
- Lab substance
- Rejoice
- Car of old
- Contrade
- Suffragist
- Julia
- "Stoppenwolf"
- author

DOWN

- the night
- Volition
- Macha Plochu
- builder
- Highlander
- Flare
- File speak
- Criticisms
- Superannuated
- Afternoon
- affair
- Signal flares
- Fall bloom
- Fishhook line
- Automatic herb
- Famous
- Remodel
- Crumble
- Page
- Swiss terrain
- Clothing
- Grinder
- Article
- Palmer
- Jun and
- Sign gas
- Sign
- Card game
- Russic
- Louis XIV for
- one
- Angles
- Chemia fare
- Leather flask
- Stomach woe
- US general
- Terrace
- Mission father
- Nibble
- Leather flask
- word
- Additionally
- In the past
- Up to
- one's
- Force unit
- Cheering

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11 countries sign anti-doping accord

ROME (AP) — Sports officials from 11 countries signed an agreement Wednesday to cooperate in combatting the use of drugs, including dope-testing each other's athletes.

The accord was modeled after a U.S.-Soviet agreement allowing the two countries to conduct short-notice cross-testing of athletes for steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

Signing Tuesday's agreement were officials from the United States, Soviet Union, Australia, Britain, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Italy, South Korea, Norway, Sweden and West Germany.

Canada was represented at the meeting but did not sign the agreement. Officials said Canada had an observer's role and was expected to join the effort soon.

The accord will be supervised by the International Olympic Committee's medical commission.

The commission president, Prince Alexandre de Merode of Belgium, said the agreement marked "a turning point in the fight against doping."

"We confronted the problem not just by words but by concrete action," he said at a news conference following two days of closed-door talks at Italian Olympic Committee headquarters.

The accord commits the countries to take practical measures to eliminate the use of doping substances by their athletes and to cooperate through separate joint agreements between national federations.

Beckenbauer will not underestimate UAE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — West Germany's national soccer team manager Franz Beckenbauer, whose country is grouped with the United Arab Emirates in next year's World Cup finals in Italy, is not underestimating the Arab country's chances.

Beckenbauer said Tuesday before departure after a private visit linked with a motor car company that West Germany is treating the UAE as serious rivals in group D where Yugoslavia and Colombia are the other nations.

"For UAE to qualify for the World Cup finals means that they are good," said the 42-year-old Beckenbauer. "However I have not seen the UAE play any matches so I don't know their style. But we do not underestimate the UAE and we will never take it easy against them."

"What the UAE lacks is experience in international matches, and this is what will prove crucial during the finals," said the former West German star player, who helped his country win the World Cup in 1974 — the last time West Germany captured soccer's most prized possession.

The draw for the World Cup finals was held Saturday in Rome where the 24 countries were divided into six groups of four teams each.

West Germany, which was the beaten finalist in the last two World Cups in 1982 and 1986, is among the favorites this time around.

Despite a rather unspectacular qualifying round in their European group, Beckenbauer, also known as the Kaiser, is confident of West Germany's chances in the Italian finals.

"We are strong enough to win the World Cup, that's for sure," Beckenbauer said when asked about his team's chances. "We have been improving for the past few years and my six years in charge have been very successful."

He added: "With five of my team playing in the Italian league, West Germany has an added advantage."

Beckenbauer, who is to step down as manager after the finals, picked out Italy, Brazil, border Argentina, England and Holland as the other favored teams in the World Cup finals which are to begin on June 9, 1990.

Like UAE coach Mario Zagallo who came in for criticism for his defensive approach during the qualifying stages, Beckenbauer shrugged off criticism that West Germany was lucky to qualify.

"We played in a very difficult group and we are happy that we qualified. It does not matter how we qualified," he said.

Beckenbauer plans to return to the UAE to watch the national team in action against foreign opposition. "To know more about the style of play, because I have never seen any of the Gulf teams play before."

Antarctica team at South Pole

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — A six-man international ski and sled dog team trying to make the first unmechanized crossing of Antarctica settled in Tuesday at the South Pole, the halfway point in their grueling journey.

The expedition reached the U.S. Scott-Amundsen scientific research base Monday afternoon, said Jack Reurich, chief spokesman for the National Science Foundation in Washington. The foundation, an independent federal agency, runs the research base as part of the U.S. Antarctica programme, he said.

Team members planned to remain at the pole, camping in tents outside the base station until Friday, said Jennifer Kimball Gas-

day, said Jennifer Kimball Gas-

"Their time is well consumed by personal management, taking care of their gear, sewing clothing, drying clothing, working on their sleds and probably running the dogs a little bit each day to keep them in condition," she said.

After arriving at the South Pole, the group sent a misspelled satellite message that read: "Here we are. Horrah."

The expedition, led by Will Steger of the United States and Jean-Louis Etienne of France, is the first to reach the bottom of the world by dogsled since Roald Amundsen first did so on Dec. 14, 1911.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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IT PAYS OFF IN THE END

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q 6 5
♥ A J 7 5 2
♦ K 10 4
♣ K J

EAST

♠ K 5 2
♥ 9 8 4
♦ Q 3 2
♣ Q 10 9 8 7

SOUTH

♠ A J 8 7
♥ K 10
♦ A 6 5 4 3 2
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

For Trump Coup Tommy, the highlight of his bridge year came when he was invited to represent his club in the intracity league. His penchant to play well only when trumps broke badly usually cost the team a bundle of points, but on hands that suited his peculiar talent, the team sometimes gained more than enough to compensate.

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Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 674111

Clint Eastwood in DEAD POOL

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:30

No reprieve for boat people

HONG KONG (Agencies) — More than 6,000 Vietnamese demonstrated in three detention centres Wednesday to protest the return of 51 other boat people to their homeland against their will, a government spokesman said.

Meanwhile, a top government official of this British colony said the forced repatriation programme will continue despite international criticism.

It is our intention to put into place a continuing programme to return to Vietnam all those who are judged not to be refugees, Chief Secretary Sir David Ford told the legislative council. His speech did not include a timetable for further repatriation.

The approximately 44,000 Vietnamese who have sailed into Hong Kong since June 1988 are considered illegal immigrants searching for better jobs unless they can prove they fled their homeland out of fear of persecution.

Nearly 6,800 have been denied refugee status being screened by immigration officials. Slightly more than 700 have qualified as refugees.

The forcible repatriation is perfectly in order and countries which object should offer them a home, according to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher told the House of Commons: It is not possible for the people of Hong Kong to take more and more of these Vietnamese boat people, many of whom were pushed away from other countries.

Labour party leader Neil Kinnock accused her of acting tyrannically by ordering security forces to collect eight Vietnamese men, 17 women and 26 children from a Hong Kong refugee camp in the middle of the night and escort them to the airport.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said there would be no more forced repatriations until a House of Commons debate next Tuesday but said Britain still plans to deport 44,000 Vietnamese.

At Hei Ling Chau camp, some 2,000 boat people staged a demonstration against deportation, marching around the barbed wire compound chanting and waving banners. A government spokesman said it was a peaceful protest.

There have been demonstrations against forced repatriation on an almost daily basis over the past few months, but this was the first since Tuesday's inaugural flight.

Camp worker Andrie van Gelderen said the situation was calm in the detention centres and asked: "I wonder to what extent the message has come across."

A three-member British embassy team in Hanoi has been charged with monitoring Vietnam's promise to treat humanely boat people screened out by Hong Kong as illegal immigrants.

Leonard Davis, a Hong Kong-based sociologist who is a specialist in the boat people issue and is a stern critic of sending people back against their will, said in effect there was no monitoring system.

"The British embassy there has no hope of monitoring the returnees. There is no guarantee of monitoring as I would have envisaged it."

"There was no system in place when voluntary repatriation

started, and there is no system now. Hong Kong has not learned from experience," he said.

A Western diplomat said the lack of a workable monitoring system was a major problem in Hong Kong's efforts to push ahead with sending people back.

"It's obvious Britain is determined to go ahead and risk world opinion by forcing these people to go home. They might just weather the storm if there is a sensible, practical scheme in place. But there isn't, and that's where opponents of this business will be able to score," he said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which runs a voluntary repatriation programme under which 630 have so far returned to Vietnam, has divorced itself from plan to return people against their will.

A senior British official said efforts were being made in London to get non-governmental organisations such as Oxfam and the Save the Children Fund (SCF) to play a role. The SCF has strongly denied it is involved in the programme.

October and relayed to Guy Fontanet, a lawyer working for the Philippine government, reports said, quoting Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner David Castro.

Castro could not be immediately contacted. The reports, which appeared in most Manila dailies, said Castro did not know whether Aquino has been informed of the offer.

The Aquino government alleges that Marcos stole up to \$10 billion during his 20-year rule and stashed some of the wealth in secret Swiss accounts.

The Marcoses fled to the United States three years ago during a popular revolt that swept Aquino to the presidency.

Aquino has barred the Marcoses for security reasons and rejected a bid for a return here of the former strongman, who died in exile last September.

Aquino acquires emergency powers

MANILA (R) — The Philippine House of Representatives Wednesday voted President Corason Aquino emergency powers for 90 days to help her thwart further coup attempts and rebuild the economy.

Senate approval for a similar bill was expected later in the day and the two houses will then present a joint bill to Aquino, who is expected to sign it into law this week.

The law would grant Aquino, who this month survived the sixth coup attempt against her, powers to seize firearms, take over public utilities and related businesses, fix prices, regulate power supplies and confiscate hoarded food.

The house denied Aquino some of the wider authority she had requested, including the power to ban strikes and suspend labour laws and an open-

ended provision that some legislators said would have given her lawmaking powers.

Aquino proposed the new law under a state of emergency she declared Dec. 6 and had asked that it be effective for six months.

But the 198-member lower house, controlled by Aquino's ruling coalition, limited the time to 90 days. It declared that any action she took to enforce the emergency must respect civil rights "and other constitutional guarantees."

"We're trying to strike a balance between the powers of the president and congress," chief bill sponsor Representative Raul Roco told reporters.

"The bill, as amended, shows our responsiveness to public opinion," Roco said, referring to fears that it might lead to excesses reminiscent of the late

dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Roco said the bill was essentially an economic emergency measure, giving Aquino authority to intervene to control supply and demand.

The latest coup attempt against Aquino, the most serious military challenge since she came to power almost four years ago, fed on widespread dissatisfaction by businessmen and workers over the handling of the economy.

Marcos' offer

Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos has offered to surrender \$36 million on condition the government drops its claim to a \$70-million Swiss account, Manila newspapers reported Wednesday.

The offer to give back 80 per cent of the bank account was reportedly made by Mrs. Marcos' counsel Bruno de Freux last

October and relayed to Guy Fontanet, a lawyer working for the Philippine government, reports said, quoting Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner David Castro.

Castro could not be immediately contacted. The reports, which appeared in most Manila dailies, said Castro did not know whether Aquino has been informed of the offer.

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Hotel queen ordered to prison

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Leona Helmsley, New York's "symbol of greed," its "queen of mean," has found out the hard way that the rich also pay taxes and can go to jail if they don't.

Dressed in black as if attending a funeral for her expensive, haughty way of life, Helmsley Tuesday went into a New York courtroom a billionaire and emerged a common criminal.

The 69-year-old "hotel queen" broke down sobbing as a judge ordered her to jail for four years and fined her \$7.1 million for plotting to evade taxes on everything from bras and girdles to a million-dollar marble dance floor and a \$130,000 stereo system.

The Helmsleys, with a personal fortune of \$1 billion have \$5 billion in real estate holdings, including 27 hotels and the Empire State Building.

Mrs. Helmsley was convicted of evading more than \$1.2 million in federal taxes between 1983 and 1985 by billing personal expenses through the Helmsley business.

She has appealed the Aug. 30 verdict that found her guilty of 33 counts of tax evasion, and she remains free on unspecified bail.

Among the expenses she was found to have fraudulently billed to her business was the construction of a \$1.1-million enclosure for the swimming pool of the Helmsley's 28-room mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Other expenses were much smaller — \$58 for leg waxing, for example.

Two Helmsley employees also were convicted. Her husband was charged, but prosecutors dropped his case because he was found mentally incompetent.

The woman who went from rags to riches by marrying the billionaire she loved will now don prison garb unless an appeals court overturns her conviction.

U.S. District Judge John Walker, a cousin of President George Bush, rejected her sobbing appeals for leniency, saying "no person, no matter how wealthy or prominent, stands above the law. You were not driven to this crime by financial need, rather your conduct was the product of naked greed."

"Throughout its course, you persisted in the arrogant belief that you were above the law. Moreover, since the ... trial, you have displayed no remorse or contrition."

French fleet heads for mercenary-held Comoros

DZAOUZI, Mayotte Island (Agencies) — A French naval task force steamed towards the Comoro Islands Wednesday, ready for possible intervention in the Indian Ocean archipelago which is under the control of white mercenaries.

French military spokesman Philippe Charrier said the task force might intervene if "the legal government of the Comoros asks us to do something in the way of military operations."

"Quite frankly there is no possibility of breaking international law or making any kind of provocation," he added.

France and South Africa also pressed on with negotiations aimed at securing the peaceful departure of the 30 or so mercenary officers who seized control of the Comoros: after President Ahmad Abdallah was killed on Nov. 26.

Diplomats in the Comorian capital, Moroni, contacted by telephone from the nearby French island of Mayotte, said the situation was calm but many people believed France would attempt some form of intervention in its former colony.

"I am sure there is something in the works but I am sure it all hangs on the negotiations," a North American diplomat said.

French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said Mon-

day that France had no intention of launching a military intervention in the Comoros, but that it was preparing for any eventuality.

Military sources in Mayotte said the French naval force would anchor about 10 nautical miles off the Grande Comore island, where Moroni is located.

Diplomats close to negotiations said they had been deadlocked for the last two days over the mercenaries' demands for safe passage to France and immunity from prosecution there.

As the four ships of the French naval force sailed from Mayotte before dawn Wednesday, two more military transport planes arrived, bringing to six the number stationed there.

Charrier said the task force, consisting of a supply ship, a frigate, an assault ship and a large patrol craft, would conduct manoeuvres in international waters off Grande Comore.

About 100 marines were aboard the ships but 300 paratroopers flown into Mayotte for the Comoros crisis were left behind on the island. Altogether six Transall planes and five Puma helicopters were standing by there to fly the paratroopers into Moroni, 300 kilometres to the west, at a moment's notice.

The task force had ostensibly been assembled to evacuate the 1,600 French passport holders

from the Comoros if necessary.

Diplomats also said a South African C-130 Hercules cargo plane was due to land at Moroni Wednesday, but they stressed that it was bringing supplies for two South-African run hotels on Grande Comore island, not to evacuate the mercenaries.

Although the mercenaries, who are widely believed to have killed Abdallah, have effectively seized power in the Comoros, there is still a civilian government led by interim President Said Mohamed Djohar.

Djohar, regarded by diplomats as virtually powerless, was due to hold a second meeting with opposition leaders on Wednesday to discuss the crisis.

Bob Denard, the mercenaries' leader, said in a statement that Abdallah was shot dead by mistake by his own bodyguard as troops of the Comoros' regular army tried to storm his palace.

A presidential guard officer then killed the bodyguard.

The regular army was disarmed by the mercenary-led guard shortly after Abdallah's death.

Denard is a veteran French mercenary who led an invasion by 50 European soldiers of fortune that put Abdallah in power in 1978.

He stayed on to organise the autocratic leader's 500-strong personal Presidential Guard.



A 14-year-old member of the Tamil National Army rests inside a Hindu temple in the eastern Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa

50 killed in Tamil clash

COLOMBO (R) — At least 50 people were killed in clashes between rival Tamil guerrilla groups in Sri Lanka's eastern province, Police and residents said Wednesday.

Twelve other people were shot dead and their bodies burned when leftist rebels attacked an opposition politician's home in the central hills, military sources said.

Police said 18 members of the Tamil National Army (TNA) and one from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) died when the LTTE attacked a TNA camp in Batticaloa Tuesday night.

Residents said the death toll was between 50 to 75. "One civilian counted 24 bodies in one spot," a resident said by telephone.

The TNA, believed to have been trained by the Indian army, is an illegal militia that has attacked police stations in northern and eastern areas in the past two months.

It includes militant groups

some of whom are running, the northeast provincial government and are opposed to the LTTE, the most powerful guerrilla organisation.

A police spokesman at Batticaloa, 240 kilometres from Colombo, said the Tigers surrounded the TNA camp and pounded it with mortars and small-arms fire.

Residents said the wife of a parliamentarian, opposed to the LTTE, was abducted in the same area Tuesday.

About 200 TNA men surrendered and are being kept in a church by their rivals. Others fled, residents said, accusing them of ransacking and looting shops in nearby Kattankudy town.

About 4,000 people left their homes and sought refuge in schools and mosques in Kattankudy because of the violence.

Indian troops are pulling out of Sri Lanka after arriving in the island's northeast in 1987 to put down a Tamil separatist revolt.

In the central hills, military

sources said an armed gang of 25 men stormed the home of local councillor K. Leelarathne, killed two of his brothers. Another relative and nine bodyguards Tuesday night.

Leelarathne was not at his home in Badulla at the time of the attack. The gang put the bodies in the house and set fire to it, the sources said.

The attack was the latest by the People's Liberation Front guerrilla group which launched a bloody campaign to oust the government two years ago.

On Sunday, rebels killed about 40 people and set fire to government buses, and offices in the southern, western and central areas.

On Monday they hacked to death 24 men and women in an attack on a village near the southern town of Matara.

Police said the attacks were intended to mark the killing a month ago of their leader Rohana Wijeweera.

Salvadoran rebels reject C. American summit call

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Leftist Salvadoran guerrillas have condemned a Central American peace accord calling for a halt to a month-long rebel offensive but left open the possibility of talks with the right-wing government.

The rebels said a declaration signed by five Central American presidents in Costa Rica did not contribute to a negotiated solution to El Salvador's decade-long civil war but set the stage for greater repression by the government.

"We indignantly reject the presidents' declaration because... it gives unconditional support to the main violator of human rights in the region — a government which has murdered and persecuted churchmen and bombarded

civilians, the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) said in a statement.

However, the rebel general command said it accepted the presidents' proposal for mediation by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "to start serious negotiations with participation by all political and social forces in the country."

President Alfredo Cristiani said he was pleased with the accord, which he said removed all justification for the guerrillas' armed struggle.

"They have been condemned not only as an irregular force but as a terrorist group," he told a news conference after arriving back in San Salvador.

The Central American presi-

dents met until the early hours Tuesday to discuss the crisis in El Salvador, where more than 2,500 people have been killed since the FMLN launched its biggest offensive on Nov. 11.

The presidents backed government efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and called on the FMLN to halt attacks and stop violence affecting civilians.

They also asked the United Nations and the Organisation of American States to immediately begin steps to disband the guerrillas.

The FMLN said it could not be disbanding as a result of an agreement between governments because it was a legitimate force with popular roots.

High-tech array of bugs for snoopers to choose

WASHINGTON (AP) — There could be a secret microphone on the telephone line, in the table lamp or in that briefcase sitting next to the desk.

The country is caught in a wave of high-tech snooping, according to privacy advocates who blame cheap, easily obtainable gadgets that can be bought through the mail, in electronics stores or in "spy shops."

Some examples:

— One-way wireless intercoms. These tiny devices, which can be secreted inside any household electrical device such as a lamp or electric clock, will transmit conversations to a receiver placed on the same electrical circuit, such as from a conference room to a basement. They're available at electronics stores for \$25.

— Spy briefcases. With a flick of their handles, these normal-looking attache cases will record, loud and clear, any sounds in a room for hours.

They cost between \$600-900.

— Inoffensive transmitters. Attach one to a phone and call it from another phone. The bugged phone does not ring. Instead it becomes a microphone that will pick up everything within 10 metres at a cost of less than \$100.

— Baby tenders. These innocuous intercom systems allow parents to monitor an infant's room from another part of the house. The devices also put out signals that can be heard by neighbours, or by snoopers.

— Voice-activated tape recorders can be put under a bed to catch an unfaithful spouse, or in a pocket to secretly record a conversation. Cost: \$75.

Devices like these — plus counter-bugging gadgets — will be on display this week in Washington at Surveillance Expo '89, which organiser Jim Ross says is the first non-government show to focus on surveillance and counter-surveillance.

One exhibitor will show a belt pager that actually is a tiny TV camera.

"He has a transmitter on his back and a beeper on a belt. Wherever he points the beeper he's broadcasting a picture to a receiver." The device has a range of a "few hundred feet, but could be boosted," Ross said in an interview last week.

"He also has one built into a tie clip and another that looks like a sprinkler head. That's a big seller, he tells me," Ross said.

Another exhibitor will show how to use a touchtone telephone to modify computer programmes that control sophisticated office phone systems. The exhibitor used it "so he could monitor his boss' phone calls," Ross said.

"What we have here is a massive assault on our constitutionally guaranteed right and expectancy of privacy," said Rudolph Brewington, a Washington journalist who claims his ex-wife victimised

him as part of a divorce proceeding with a voice-activated tape recorder.

Manufacturers say their devices all have legal uses and that it is up to the buyer, not the seller, to make sure laws are not broken. But Brewington and others say manufacturers know these devices are being used illegally and are doing nothing to prevent it.

Manufacturers "have not developed any type of inhibiting device on these products. They merely sell them," Brewington said in an interview. Even though manufacturers often include warnings about illegal use in their advertising, "They know exactly how the products are being used."

Brewington, along with another journalist, Robert Moore Jr., was instrumental in getting the U.S. Postal Service to begin warning customers in September that it is illegal to

mail devices intended to intercept wire or oral communications.

A section of the U.S. code prohibits the manufacture, sale, possession, advertisement, mailing and use of devices "primarily useful for the purpose of surreptitious interception of wire or oral communications."

The phrase "primarily useful" is a key point of contention for manufacturers who say their devices serve legitimate purposes.

But there also is another catch in the law, which allows recording when one person is a party to the conversation and gives prior consent. The law does not specify who the consenting party is — the person taping or being taped.

Ross, a counter-surveillance expert, says the problem is larger than surreptitious listening.

"People are not really attuned to the fact they may be heard or eavesdropped on," he said. Users of cellular and cordless phones often don't realise their conversations are being broadcast on radio waves. Cordless phone users sometimes can overhear other cordless conversations, and people using police "scammers" can intercept cellular phone calls.

"Horror stories abound," Ross said.

Ross recalled a man using a police scanner who intercepted a neighbour's baby tender.

The parents "had put the baby tender in the baby's room and the parents were behind a paper-thin wall in the next room. The baby was quiet, but the parents weren't being quiet," Ross recalled the scanner operator saying, "what he was hearing shouldn't have been broadcast all over..."

COLUMN

Honest cabbie

NEW YORK (AP) — A woman who left a purse containing \$6,300 in the back seat of a taxi will get the money back thanks to an honest cab driver, police said.

Wee Gen, 49, found the purse in his taxi Tuesday and brought it to a police station, said officer Fred Weiner. Police contacted the owner from papers found in the purse, Weiner said. Her name was not released.

No tax on holes in ice

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark has dropped plans to fill a hole in the 1990 budget by slapping a 500 crown (\$70) tax on cutting fishing holes in the ice.

"I've listened to the protests about this, and am therefore dropping the proposal," Justice Minister Hans Engell told parliament Tuesday night. Embarrassed civil servants had discovered it would be cheaper to pay the 200 crown (\$27) fine for making holes illegally than to buy a permit.

How hot is moon?

NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe it's sheer lunacy, but thousands of people are calling a special telephone number to find out the temperature on the moon.

American Express started its 1-900-weather line Aug. 1, providing temperatures and forecasts for 600 places around the world, and one place out of this world. It turns out more people have called for the moon's temperatures than any other location, except New York City, the company reported Tuesday.

"I think we've struck a whimsical chord among callers," said Jess Bander, an American Express vice president. "There's a sense of wonderment about the moon, a fanciful enjoyment."

The whimsy has, of course, carried over to the Christmas season, with North Pole forecasts now available. After New York and the Moon, the places most frequently asked about are London, Chicago and Boston, said Bander, who wouldn't say how many people have called about the moon. It's hot on the sunny half of the moon; about 264 degrees Fahrenheit (129 degrees Centigrade), and cold on the dark half, about 272 degrees (-170 Celsius). It's been like that for millions of years, and the information is in most encyclopaedias. But for 75 cents a minute, callers can hear that the relative humidity on the airless orb is zero per cent and that winds are calm.

Japanese to receive honorary Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, whose mainstream movie influence ranges from "Star Wars" to Westerns, will become the first filmmaker from Japan to receive an honorary Oscar. It was reported. Kurosawa, 79, whose 1951 movie "Rashomon" earned him his first of three Academy Awards, will receive the honorary award during the 62nd annual Academy Awards ceremony March 26, according to a story published Tuesday in the Hollywood Reporter. The director who made his first film in 1943 claimed a second foreign-language film Oscar in 1971 for "Dodes' Ka-den." Kurosawa, whose 1975 Soviet film "Dersu Uzala" also won an Academy Award, is the only director to win two foreign-language film Oscars representing two different countries. His 1980 Samurai epic "Kagemusha" was nominated for an Oscar and his most recent Academy Award nomination came in 1985 for "Ran." In addition to directing films, Kurosawa has produced 10 of his pictures and written or co-written most of them.

Global weather
(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	03	37	05 41 Rain
ATHENS	05	41	14 57 Clear
BAHRAIN	16	61	23 73 Cloudy
BANGKOK	20	32	32 80 Clear
Buenos Aires	20	31	31 87 Clear
Cairo	13	55	18 84 Cloudy
CHICAGO	05	41	67 83 Clear
COPENHAGEN	-05	23	37 73 Cloudy
Frankfurt	00	32	01 34 Rain
Geneva	-04	25	07 45 Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	24	72 75 Clear
ISTANBUL	01	34	43 93 Clear
LONDON	04	30	10 50 Rain
LOS ANGELES	07	45	22 71 Clear
MADRID	08	46	12 54 Rain
MEXICO	19	68	31 88 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-17	01	12 10 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-10	14	08 57 Clear
NEW DELHI	10	50	24 75 Cloudy
NEW YORK	-01	31	01 33 Clear
PARIS	03	37	13 55 Cloudy
ROME	18	55	28 70 Cloudy
SYDNEY	19	58	30 90 Clear
TOKYO	04	30	10 50 Clear
VIENNA	02	28	01 33 Cloudy